Willis's Current Notes

1851.

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WILLIS'S

CURRENT NOTES:

A SERIES OF ARTICLES

ON

Antiquities, Biography, Heraldry, History, Language,

Literature, Natural History, Topography, &c.

SELECTED FROM

ORIGINAL LETTERS AND DOCUMENTS

ADDRESSED DURING THE YEAR

1851

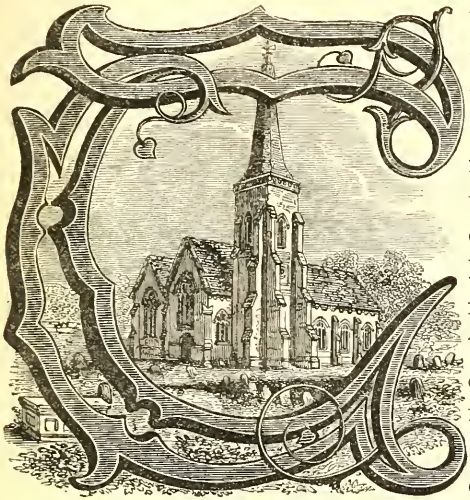
TO THE PUBLISHER,

G. WILLIS,

GREAT PIAZZA, COVENT GARDEN, LONDON.

MDCCCLII.

PREFACE.



TWELVE MONTHS' experience has brought with it the satisfactory conviction that the addition which appeared in January last to *Willis's Price Current of Literature,* under the title of "Notes for the Month," has proved generally acceptable to his customers; so much so, indeed, as to induce him to print upon superior paper in a collected form, a small edition of his Current Notes for 1851, separately from his monthly issues of the *Price Current of Literature and Catalogue of Books on Sale,* the new series of which has now reached its fifty-seventh number.

That all the Notes circulated by G. Willis deserve preservation he does not presume to assert; for many of them possessed only a temporary interest; nor was it to be expected that in the course of a rapid selection of between four and five hundred paragraphs from more than as many thousand letters, containing orders, inquiries, and business communications, written by parties in various parts of the globe, grades of life, and of different tastes and opinions, that sympathy of interest or equality of style could be maintained. Still as it often happened that a crude conjecture, or what appeared to be a trifling observation, frequently elicited agreeable, novel, and sometimes important information, selection became so difficult a task, and one which however judiciously performed would have broken the link of ideal connection, that G. W. determined upon the re-issue of his Notes as they originally appeared.

And now, in reviewing these communications, some of them upon controverted questions in

Antiquities	Autographs	History	Manufactures
Architecture	Biography	Language	Natural History
Art	Heraldry	Literature	Science

Theology *and* Topography,

G. Willis has only one thing to regret, that any statement, observation, or even jocular remark which may have been forced upon him by circumstances, or have been inadvertently admitted, should have been considered objectionable.

It must be clearly understood that G. W. is connected with no literary or political clique; as a tradesman it would not answer his purpose. And his wish has always been to avoid, in the ordinary meaning of the terms, personalities, partizanship, or favoritism of every kind.

But in his Current Notes G. W. is no free agent. He cannot act upon his own judgment, or refer to the opinion of a friendly counsellor. He must be guided in his course of conduct by the statements made to him, which all depend upon the taste, time, humour, and even the caprices of those who honour and benefit him by their orders, and place confidence in him by their commands, friendly suggestions, inquiries, and communications, respecting many of which, as a Tradesman, he has neither the opportunity nor the power of acquiring information or forming an opinion, and must entirely rely upon the report of others. He, therefore, can only endeavour to guide himself by the old English hedge ale-house motto:—

"Best please and serve those
Who best does and least owes."

Upon more particular reference to "Willis's Current Notes" it may be observed, that some severe, and in G. W.'s very humble opinion uncalled for, comments were published respecting "*the Guild of Literature and Art*," but he could not well decline the insertion of what a valuable Customer informed him was "a piece of general literary gossip," and requested admission for among his Notes, without the risk of displeasing that Customer. The immediate publication of this lurking feeling, as it has proved to be, produced the clear and able vindication of Sir Bulwer Lytton's amiable character, generous conduct, and disinterested motives (if indeed any such vindication were required), which appeared in the subsequent number of G. W.'s Notes from the pen of another Correspondent, who not only at once placed the matter in its proper light, but dispelled the gossip alluded to, and which, so far as G. W. can learn, has not been since revived.

Here, then, the publication of a difference in opinion has been beneficial to both parties—both most valuable Customers to G. W. One, occupying a distinguished literary, political, and social position before the public, was plainly told what was whispered about him and his associates, and those who had originated such tattle were made acquainted with the real state of the case.

That dissensions or misunderstandings should occur among Authors is as much to be deplored as that they should happen among Booksellers. The observations made in *The Athenæum* of the 18th October, with reference to G. W.'s conduct and the purchase

of Mr. Codd's Library, will more particularly explain the circumstance alluded to, which has been, it is hoped, long since satisfactorily understood. And G. Willis takes this opportunity of assuring his fellow tradesmen in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland, and its Colonies, as well as the Booksellers of America, France, Germany, and Holland, that it never was his wish to interfere improperly with their business, or to take any unfair or even unhandsome advantage of them in the course of trade; feeling convinced, as he has always done, that it is only from an undeviating adherence to this line of conduct, he ought to receive their support or deserve that of the public.

So far this address may appear, perhaps, a little too egotistical and laudatory of G. W.'s attempt to establish an easy and agreeable vehicle of communication between congenial minds. But every thing has its dark as well as its bright side. That a professional gentleman, who is reputed to be better known from his desire to take the Chair at public meetings than for keeping his temper while occupying it, should have sent his Solicitor to demand the name of the writer of any paragraph which appeared in Willis's Current Notes, is a matter of deep regret to the publisher, who did not hesitate to give the name when he had obtained the writer's sanction for so doing. It is still a matter of deeper regret to G. W. that any one whose communication he felt in some measure, as an explanation, bound to admit into his Notes, should have so far forgotten himself as to have applied such terms as "the wanton statement"—"to answer some malignant purpose," towards a Magistrate, who has since called on G. W. and assured him, that his original assertions remain unaltered. Desirous only of communications from Gentlemen upon whose authority for any statement made by them G. W. can depend, he repeats what has now for some months appeared prefixed to his Current Notes, as a "Notice to Subscribers," and which will continue steadily to head them:—

"G. Willis gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion that may appear in his *Current Notes*, which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required."

Although G. W. could not fail to observe the free and unacknowledged use made of his Notes by the Newspaper Press, he has merely alluded to the circumstance in a few lines, which he trusts will be sufficiently explicit to his contemporaries.

"NEWSPAPER PARAGRAPHS.—When aware that any paragraph has been copied from a newspaper, it is G. W.'s desire that the same should be acknowledged, and he hopes, after this explanation, a similar line of conduct will be observed by the editors of newspapers towards *Willis's Current Notes.*"

At the same time it is due to the Editors of the under-mentioned papers, that G. W. should express his gratitude for the flattering opinions respecting his Notes, which have appeared in

The Derby Mercury, 1st Oct. The Downpatrick Recorder, 3rd May. The Gateshead Observer, 31st May. The Globe, Dec. The Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle, Oct. 25 and Nov. 1. The Morning Advertiser, 30th Aug. and Dec. 29. The Northampton Mercury, 20th Feb. and 30th Aug. The Salisbury and Winchester Journal, 29th Nov. The West of England Conservative and Plymouth and Devonshire Advertiser, 10th Sept.

It has been insinuated in a quarter, where such statement should not—even if correct—have been made, that Willis's Notes had "the curse of copyism" about them. Whatever may be said, it certainly has been G. W.'s desire that they should be as original as possible, and to insure this when anticipated (no doubt accidentally), by a contemporary, he has cancelled more than one paragraph and an illustration at some inconvenience. He wishes particularly to avoid imitation or interference with certain contemporaries, either in the matter, style or embellishment of his Notes, and trusts that his kind Correspondents will keep this his particular wish in view.

Although as a jocular acknowledgement "our New York Special Reporter," has been mentioned, the term "Our Artist" has been carefully avoided, for G. W. never entertained the idea of employing a melo-dramatic corps of Sketching sharp-shooters to look out for every Wreck or Revolution and to calculate how much black cloud or white spray or smoke they could transfer for the least money to the largest wood-block that could be screwed together. G. W. has avoided all association with those artists, who

"Ride upon rainbows and dance upon storms,"

and quietly illustrates his Notes by slight sketches and tracings from the hands of a few

"Truthful and thoughtful students of the past,
Who whirl along—not with—the whirling blast."

And the assurances that he continues to receive from the highest quarters, that his Current Notes are appreciated and are acceptable to his Customers, give him no desire to imitate what may well be termed the Revolutionary and Typhoon School of Art, nor to issue more supplements than are required by his Subscribers.

31st December, 1851.

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JANUARY, 1851.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES FOR THE MONTH.

"I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE.

ADDRESS.

SIXTEEN years ago G. WILLIS issued his first sheet Catalogue of Second-hand Books, with their prices.

This Catalogue he then intended to publish quarterly. The demand, however, for his stock, steadily increasing, induced him to print his Catalogue every alternate month; upon which bi-mensial issue, a celebrated wit, now no more, observed to him, "the question is not for me to consider, Mr. Willis, but for you to decide upon the effect of *transposition*, (G. W. having then recently removed to his present premises), and whether *men shall buy* more or less, from your *bi-mensial* Catalogue."

This, though said as a joke, involved to G. WILLIS a serious consideration, for the high rate of postage at that time prevented him from sending his Catalogues but to comparatively few persons. Nor could he presume to send his customers an unpaid communication.

This inconvenience lasted until April, 1847, when he thought that there ought to be no difficulty in placing his Catalogues upon the same footing as an ordinary Newspaper, and allowing them to pass free through the post office if charged with the stamp duty. This, however, could only be effected by the fact of their containing *news*. He therefore added "the Price Current of Literature," advertising "all new works published in Great Britain, Ireland, and America, with their sizes, publishing prices, and authors' names;" and issued a Stamped Edition at three shillings subscription per annum, paid in advance, to meet the increased expense of printing and paper.

Of the manner in which subscribers estimate "Willis's Catalogues and Price Current of Literature," many gratifying proofs have occurred; and in some cases this circumstance has forced upon him a correspondence that has assumed the shape of Literary enquiries which he has been assured, by competent judges, are of sufficient interest to merit preservation.

An addition, and he hopes an acceptable one, will therefore in future be made by G. WILLIS (without further charge) to his Price Current of Literature, under the title of "Notes for the Month." This addition will not in any way affect the character of his Catalogues as hitherto established, nor the very reasonable prices at which standard works have always been offered for sale.

FRASER'S MAGAZINE commenced in February, 1830. Mr. James Fraser the publisher is said never to have recovered from the beating so severely inflicted by Messrs. Grantley and Craven Berkeley, 3rd August, 1836, in consequence of an article which appeared in the Magazine, written by the late Doctor Maginn—the trial consequent upon which violent proceedings took place on the 3rd December following, and is published in "Fraser's Magazine" for January 1837, No. XV. p. 100.

A duel was fought by Mr. Grantley Berkeley and Doctor Maginn; three shots were exchanged without effect, and the parties were withdrawn from the ground by their respective seconds. The offensive article was entitled, "Mr. Grantley Berkeley and his Novels," No. XIV. p. 242. Maginn's "defence of Fraser's Magazine in the Berkeley affair," appeared in XIV. p. 137.

Doctor Maginn died the 19th August, 1842.

The print entitled "Fraserians" appeared in "Fraser's Magazine" for January, 1835, and is from the hand of D. Maclise, Esq., R.A. The chairman, who is speaking, was intended for Doctor Maginn, and following the round of the table from the chairman's left hand, the party as seated represent—

The Rev. Edward Irving—died 6th December, 1834.
The Rev. Francis Mahony (*Father Prout*).
The Rev. G. R. Gleig.
Sir Egerton Brydges, Bart.—Died 8th Sept. 1837.
Mr. Allan Cunningham.—Died 29th October, 1842.
Mr. Thomas Carlyle.
The Count D'Orsay.
Mr. D. R. Moir (*Delta*).
Sir David Brewster.
Mr. Theodore E. Hook.—Died 24th August 1841.
Mr. Crofton Croker.
Mr. John Gibson Lockhart.
Mr. James Fraser.—Died 2nd October, 1841.
Mr. William Dunlop.
Mr. William Jerdan.
Mr. James Hogg.—Died 21st December, 1835.
Mr. John Galt.—Died 11th April, 1839.
Mr. S. T. Coleridge.—Died 25th July, 1834.
Mr. William Harrison Ainsworth.
Doctor R. Macnish.—Died 16th January, 1837.
Mr. Serjeant Murphy.
Mr. John Churchill.—Dead.
Mr. William M. Thackeray.
Mr. Percival W. Banks (*Morgan Rattler*) died 13th August, 1850.
——— (*Ideal.*)
Mr. Bryan W. Procter (*Barry Cornwall*).

There is no reason to doubt that all these gentlemen

were contributors to Fraser's Magazine, although it is impossible that many of them could have met in the manner represented.

After the death of Fraser, who had collected around him this host of talent, Mr. Nickisson became the proprietor of "Fraser's Magazine"—but ill health obliged him to decline business, and he parted with his interest in the Magazine to Mr. Parker, West Strand, in June, 1847.

Complete sets of Fraser's Magazine in good condition are not in the market, although there ought to be no difficulty in procuring one.

Merchants' Marks.—We are not acquainted with any work upon this subject; but an interesting paper respecting Merchants' Marks was read before the Literary and Philosophical Society of Hull in November, 1839, by Charles Frost, Esq., F.S.A.

Mr. Frost stated that the subject had received little attention from Antiquaries, but the term Merchants' marks was familiar "to mercantile men, who have long been in the habit of adopting certain arbitrary characters or devices to designate the ownership of particular goods, their peculiar manufacture, or the various qualities of their workmanship."

In the "Law Magazine" for August, 1839, it was stated that "some of these vocabularies and characters are so peculiar as to be utterly unintelligible beyond the sphere of their immediate application, and not unfrequently beget a ludicrous association of ideas in uninitiated minds." "In all cases," says the same writer, "the reliance placed upon them is most explicit, and from the foreign and wholesale commerce of the greatest mercantile houses, down to the more humble retail dealer, any violation of good faith in the employment of them cannot but be attended with most prejudicial consequences. Whenever such a violation occurs, it may be very properly regarded in the twofold light of an invasion of a private right, and a fraud upon the public."

Mr. Frost stated that "the Law of England, which provides a remedy for every injury, has thrown its protection over the use of these symbols for commercial purposes, by extending its aid to prevent their piracy. An instance of judicial recognition of the right of individuals to assume exclusively peculiar marks occurred so early as the 22nd year of the reign of Queen Elizabeth in the following case, related by Mr. Justice Doddridge. "An action was brought upon the case in Common Pleas, by a clothier, that whereas he had gained reputation by the making of his cloth, by reason whereof he had great utterance to his great benefit and profit; and that he used to set his mark to his cloth, whereby it should be known to be his cloth; and another clothier perceiving it used the same mark to his ill-made cloth, on purpose to deceive him, and it was resolved that an action did well lie."

Courts of Equity, as well as Law, have in various instances of recent occurrence supported the principle of this decision.

The Merchants' Marks of the 14th, 15th, and 16th centuries appear particularly to have attracted Mr. Frost's attention. He stated, that the late Mr. Samuel Woodward, of Norwich, visited Hull for the purpose of collecting these "singular memorials of mercantile greatness"

The Society of Antiquaries, from its usual tardiness, have deprived the public of the benefit of Mr. Woodward's knowledge, and to Mr. Dawson Turner must we look for the production of 53 of these interesting marks, extending from 1409 to 1599, with Mr. Woodward's elucidations of them.

That the history of English Merchants should remain to be written is certainly a subject of surprise to us.

A Literary Residence.—Mrs. S. C. Hall's present address is 22, Hans Place, Sloane Street, and we are induced to give a sketch of the house as a very remarkable one from its having been the residence of so many literary ladies.

Among its inmates may be enumerated, Lady Caroline Lamb, the Countess St. Quentin, Miss Mitford, Lady Bulwer Lytton, Miss Landon, Miss Roberts, and now Mrs. S. C. Hall. Perhaps in the wide range of the British metropolis no house can be named from which so much female talent has emanated.

The Editor of the Memoirs of L. E. L. relates two or three circumstances which give a general interest to Hans Place. Here it was that Miss Landon was born on the 14th August, 1802, in the house now No. 25; and "it is remarkable that the greater portion of L. E. L.'s existence was passed on the spot where she was born. From Hans Place and its neighbourhood she was seldom absent, and then not for any great length of time; until within a year or two of her death she had there found her home, not indeed in the house of her birth, but close by. Taken occasionally during the earlier years of childhood into the country, it was to Hans-place she returned. Here some of her school time was passed. When her parents removed she yet

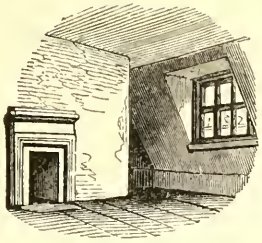
clung to the old spot, and as her own mistress chose the same scene for her residence. When one series of inmates quitted it she still resided there with their successors, returning continually after every wandering 'like a blackbird to her nest.'"

The partiality of Miss Landon for London was extraordinary. In 1834 that accomplished lady wrote, ominously wrote, to a literary friend, "When I have the good or ill-luck (I rather lean to the latter opinion) of being married, I shall certainly insist on the wedding excursion not extending much beyond Hyde Park Corner." Little did she then dream that her wedding excursion was to be to Cape Coast Castle. When in her sixth year (1808), Miss Landon was sent to school at No. 22, Hans Place. This school was then kept by Miss Rowden, who, in 1801, had published "a Poetical Introduction to the Study of Botany," (8vo. 2nd Ed. 1812), and in 1810 a poem entitled "The Pleasures of Friendship." Miss Rowden married, and in the course of events became the Countess St. Quentin, went to France and died there.

In this house, where she had been educated, Miss Landon afterwards resided for many years as a boarder with the Misses Lance, who succeded Miss Rowden in conducting a ladies' school there. "It seems," observes the biographer of L. E. L., "to have been appropriated to such purposes from the time it was built, nor was L. E. L. the first who drank at the 'well of English' within its walls. Miss Mitford, we believe, was educated there, and Lady Caroline Lamb was an inmate for a time."

Our readers need scarcely be reminded that Lady Caroline was the wife of the late Viscount Melbourne to whom she was married in 1805. Or that her Ladyship published three novels—Glenarvon in 1816, and Graham Hamilton and Ada Reis, 1823. Miss Mitford has so minutely detailed her own history while a resident at No. 22, Hans Place, and her literary productions are so numerous, that we prefer allowing her to tell her own story hereafter, and following the course of Miss Landon.

It was the remark of L. E. L. herself that "a history of how and where works of imagination have been produced would often be more extraordinary than the works themselves." "Her own case," observes a female friend, whom we believe we do not err in naming as the present occupier of 22, Hans Place, "is in some degree an illustration of perfect independence of mind over all external circumstance." "Perhaps to the L. E. L. of whom so many nonsensical things have been said, as that she could write with a crystal pen, dipped in dew, upon silver paper, and use for pounce the dust of a butterfly's wing, a dilettante of literature would assign for the scene of her authorship a fairy-like boudoir with rose-coloured and silver hangings, fitted with all the luxuries of a fastidious taste. How did the reality agree with this fancy sketch? Miss Landon's drawing-room, indeed, [It was the wing attached to the house between it and "the Pavilion." From the back a flight of steps descended into a small garden] was prettily furnished, but it was her invariable habit to write in her bed-room. I see it now,



that homely looking, almost uncomfortable room, fronting the street and barely furnished with a simple white bed, at the foot of which was a small, old oblong shaped, sort of dressing table, quite covered with a common worn writing desk, heaped with papers, while some strewed the ground, the table being too small for aught besides a desk; a little high-backed cane chair which gave you any idea rather than that of comfort. A few books scattered about completed the author's paraphernalia."

In this attic did the muse of L. E. L. dream of and describe, music, moonlight, and roses, and "apostrophise loves, memories, hopes, and fears," with how much ultimate appetite for invention or sympathy may be judged from her declaration that, "there is one conclusion at which I have arrived, that a horse in a mill has an easier life than an author; I am fairly fagged out of my life."

Miss Roberts, who had resided in the same house with Miss Landon, prefixed a brief memoir to a collection of poems by that lamented lady, which appeared shortly after her death, using as a motto her own mournful lines,

> "Alas! hope is not prophecy—we dream,
> But rarely does the glad fulfilment come;
> We leave our land, and we return no more."

And within less than twenty months from the selection of these lines they became applicable to her who had quoted them.

Emma Roberts accompanied her sister, Mrs. M'Naughten to India, where they resided until her sister's death. Upon that event, Miss Roberts returned to England, and employed her pen assiduously and advantageously in illustrating the condition of our Eastern dominions. She returned to India, and died at Poonah on the 17th of September, 1840.

Though considerably the elder, she was one of the early friends of Miss Landon, having for several years previous to her visit to India boarded with the Misses Lance in Hans Place.

"These were happy days, and little boded the premature and melancholy fate which awaited them in foreign climes. We believe," says the editor of the Literary Gazette, "that it was the example of the literary pursuits of Miss Landon which stimulated Miss Roberts to try her powers as an author, and we [Mr. Jerdan] remember having the gratification to assist her in launching her first essay—an historical production, [Memoirs of the rival houses of York and Lancaster, 2 vols. 8vo. 1827], which reflected high credit on her talents, and at once established her in a fair position in the ranks of literature. Since then she has been one of the most prolific of our female writers, and given to the public a number of works of interest and value. The expedition to India, in which she unfortunately perished,

was undertaken with comprehensive views towards the further illustration of the East, and portions of her descriptions have appeared as she journeyed to her destination in periodicals devoted to Asiatic pursuits."

The influence of Miss Landon's popularity upon the mind of Miss Roberts very probably caused that lady to desire similar celebrity. Indeed so imitative are the impulses of the human mind that it may fairly be questioned if Miss Landon would ever have attuned her lyre had she not been in the presence of Miss Mitford's and Miss Rowden's "fame and felt its influence." Miss Mitford has chronicled so minutely all the sayings and doing of her school days in Hans Place, (H. P. as she mysteriously writes it) that she admits us at once behind the scenes. She describes herself as sent there (we will not supply the date, but suppose it to be somewhere about 1800), "a petted child of ten years old, born and bred in the country, and as shy as a hare?" The schoolmistress, a Mrs. S———, "seldom came near us. Her post was to sit all day, nicely dressed, in a nicely furnished drawing room, busy with some piece of delicate needle work, receiving mammas, aunts and godmammas, answering questions and administering as much praise as she conscientiously could—perhaps a little more. In the school room she ruled like other rulers by ministers and delegates, of whom the French teacher was the principal." This French teacher, the daughter of an *émigré* of distinction, upon the short peace of Amiens, left to join her parents in an attempt to recover their property, in which they succeeded. Her successor is admirably sketched by Miss Mitford; as well as the mutual antipathy which existed between the French and English teacher, in whom we at once recognise Miss Rowden.

"Never were two better haters. Their relative situations had probably something to do with it, and yet it was wonderful that two such excellent persons should so thoroughly detest each other. Miss R.'s aversion was of the cold, phlegmatic, contemptuous, provoking sort; she kept aloof and said nothing. Madame's was acute, fiery and loquacious; she not only hated Miss R., but hated, for her sake, knowledge and literature and wit, and above all poetry, which she denounced as *something fatal and contagious, like the plague.*"

Miss Mitford's literary and dramatic tastes seem to have been acquired from Miss Rowden, whom she describes as "one of the most charming women that she had ever known."

"The pretty word *graziosa* by which Napoleon loved to describe Josephine seemed made for her. She was full of a delicate grace of mind and person. Her little elegant figure, and her fair mild face, lighted up so brilliantly by her large hazel eyes, corresponded exactly with the soft, gentle manners which were so often awakened into a delightful playfulness, or an enthusiasm more charming still, by the impulse of her quick and ardent spirit. To be sure she had a slight touch of distraction about her, (distraction French, not distraction English), an interesting absence of mind. She united in her own person all the sins of forgetfulness of all the young ladies; mislaid her handkerchief, her shawl, her gloves, her work, her music, her drawing, her scissors, her keys; would ask for a book when she held it in her hand, and set a whole class hunting for her thimble, whilst the said thimble was quietly perched upon her finger. Oh! with what a pitying scorn our exact and recollective Frenchwoman used to look down upon such an incorrigible scatterbrain! But she was a poetess, as madame said, and what could you expect better!"

Such was Miss Landon's schoolmistress; and under this lady's especial instruction did Miss Mitford pass the years 1802-3 and 4; together they read, "chiefly poetry" and "beside these readings," says Miss Mitford, "Miss R. compensated in another way for my unwilling application. She took me often to the theatre; whether as an extra branch of education, or because she was herself in the height of a dramatic fever, it would be invidious to inquire. The effect may easily be foreseen; my enthusiasm soon equalled her own; we began to read Shakspeare, and read nothing else."

In 1810, Miss Mitford first appeared as an authoress by publishing a volume of poems, which, in the course of the following year passed into a second edition.

Harwich.—A few copies of Theodore Hook's verses, entitled, "The Harwich Guide," have been printed, and are in circulation—from one of these copies we reprint this humourous production. It affords an agreeable specimen of his extraordinary mode of improvising:—

Old Harwich stands
Upon two strands,
Between the sea and Stour;
Its round redoubt,
Might keep foes out,
If—it had but a better door.

Two harbour lights,
In winter nights,
May tempt a stranger in;
But he'd go, no doubt,
To the right about,
If he could but see the Inn.

Th' assembly rooms,
Are dark as tombs,
But the Church is light and gay
With Epitaphs,
At which one laughs,
Like the moral of a play.

The Market's shut,
The Prison's not,
The Gardens smell of Lobskouse;
We could not pass,
For the length of the grass,
The door of the Custom House.

Indeed, if mowed,
Each street a load,
Would yield of excellent hay;
But the Esplanade,
To those who can wade,
Is passable half the day.

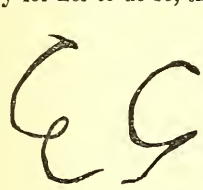
In the library
No books there be,
But a Harpsichord out of tune;
Toys, bonnets, lace,
An Alderman's face,
And a plaster Laocoon.

The harbour's view,
Is fine, 'tis true,
If you knew but where it lay;
For the houses are placed,
With such excellent taste,
That they all look the other way.

From filthy slips,
You may see the ships,
We counted just thirteen;
Two in the flood,
Five in the mud,
And six in quarantine.

From Mistley Hall,*
'Tis what they call,
About ten miles in a Carriage;
But as long as I may,
At Mistley stay,
Be hang'd if I go to Harwich.

Nell Gwynne could not write; but at the same time she did not make her mark, usually signing when necessary for her to do so, the initials of her name.



The above is copied from her signature to a receipt, dated June, 1683, for the sum of £250, on account in part of her annuity for the support of herself and Charles Earl of Burford. The baby Earl was created Duke of St. Albans in January, 1684.

Her autograph is much sought after by collectors, and is esteemed as "rare." One occurred in a sale of Exchequer documents at Sotheby's on the 11th April, 1840:—"Lot 112. A receipt of Elionora Gwynn for £500 towards the support of herself and Charles Duke of St. Albans, for one quarter, ending at Christmas, 1688," (at least so it is stated in the "Gentleman's Magazine for May, 1840, vol. xiii. p. 496.) This sold for £1. 3*s*. The date, however, of this receipt cannot be correct, as the record of her burial may be found in the register of St. Martin's in the Fields on the 17th November, 1687.

A copy of her will is preserved in Doctors' Commons. It is signed with her initials only. In the entry of her burial her name stands "Elinor Gwin." In her will, which is dated 9th July, 1687, it is written "Ellen Gwynne."

* The Speaker's.

A codicil, which is attached in the shape of "the last request of Mrs. Ellenr. Gwinne to his Grace the Duke of St. Albans, made October the eighteenth, 1687," contains the following remarkable passage:"—"That for shewing my charity to those who may differ from me in religion, I desire that fifty pounds may be put into the hands of Dr. Tenison and Mr. Warner, who, taking to them any two persons of the Roman Religion may dispose of it for the poore of that religion inhabiting in the parish of St. James's aforesaid." This follows a bequest of £100. for the use of the poor of St. Martin's and St. James', Westminster.

The verses on Nell Gwynne's looking glass, (and very pretty verses they are,) were written by the late Mr. Laman Blanchard:

"Glass antique, 'twixt thee and Nell,
Draw we here a parallel:
She, like thee, was forced to bear
All reflections, foul or fair;
Thou art deep and bright within,
Depths as bright belong'd to Gwynne;
Thou art very frail as well,
Frail as flesh is—so was Nell."—Etc.

This relic was in the possession of Sir Page Dick, and has been engraved.

A paper, under the head of "Pilgrimages in London," describing a visit to Sandford Manor House, said to have been the residence of Nell Gwynne, and which may be seen from the bridge crossing the canal on the King's Road leading from Chelsea to Fulham, appeared in the "Britannia" newspaper, of 22nd January, 1842. Another paper on the same subject, and not improbably from the same hand, was published in the "Art Union" of March, 1848, entitled, "Pilgrimages to English Shrines, by Mrs. S. C. Hall, with Notes and Illustrations by F. W. Fairholt, F.S.A." In this agreeable paper a facsimile of Nell's signature was given, with various other illustrations. "Poor Nelly," sighed Mrs. Hall, "was no proficient in pen-craft, for she could only sign with the initials, E. G." And Mr. Fairholt appends as a note, that "Nell's autograph, a simple E. G., for she could write no more, is here copied from the original in the possession of R. Cole, Esq." adding that "one has been sold within the last few weeks for £2 4*s*, appended to a receipt for £500, her half year's pension."

The same gentleman states that her looking glass "was among the other rarities preserved at the Pryor's Bank, Fulham, by its owner, T. Baylis, Esq. F.S.A."

A critic in the "Athenæum, of 11th March, 1848, however, declares Mrs. Hall's "Gossip about Nell Gwynne" to be "a mass of error throughout," and adds, that "the blunders are really beyond belief." And Mrs. Hall is again attacked about poor Nelly in the same periodical of the following week. It perhaps may be an act of literary forbearance on the part of an estimable and universally respected lady if she or her friends do not retaliate upon the blunders of Mr. Peter Cunningham, who has commenced, in the last "Gentleman's Magazine," a series of papers professing to illustrate Nell Gwynne's History.

"Nell Gwynne, the City of the Wye or the Red Lands of Herefordshire; an historical Play, by T. Horton, Comedian," was printed at Hereford in 1828. This drama is dedicated "to E. T. Foley, Esq. M.P., Stoke Edith Park;" and it contains some curious snatches of what appear to be genuine old songs. For instance:—

"For all our men were very, very, merry,
And all our men were drinking,
There was two of mine,
Three of thine,
And three that belonged to old Tom O'Lyne.
As they went to the ferry
They were very, very, merry,
And all our men were drinking,
Ha! ha! ha!"

And again:—

"Jack looked at the sun, and cried fire! fire! fire!
Tom stabled his keffel in Bullingham mire,
Jem started a calf, and hollow'd for a stag,
Will mounted a gate-post instead of a nag.
"For all our men were very, very, merry," &c.

There are many prints of Nell Gwynne—Granger enumerates seventeen; but there must be more than double that number. They sell at various prices, from one penny to five guineas, which is the usual price given by collectors for "Madam Ellen Gwin, and her two Sons, &c. in the characters of Venus and two Cupids," by Henry Gascar. (In Granger's list, No. 8.) The next in value to this, of those mentioned by Granger, are No. 2. "Madam Gwin," (a lamb under right arm) engraved by G. Valck, after Sir Peter Lely; and No. 9. "Madam Ellen Gwynn and her two Sons," engraved by Thompson, after Sir Peter Lely. When to be met with, both these prints usually sell for two guineas and a half. Of the latter, a proof before letters occurred in the Third Day's Sale of the Strawberry Hill Collection (in London), Lot 350. Thompson was an English engraver, who flourished in the reign of Charles II. Vertue could discover very few prints by this artist, but mentions this particularly, as "an excellent one."

Doctor Burney gave for an impression of the line engraving of "Madam Elinora Gwynne: S. Couper, pinx.: G. Valck, sculp. et ex."—which is now worth about fifteen shillings, if in a fine state—forty pounds, about three-and-thirty years ago. It is now in his Theatrical Collection, in the British Museum.

The Grimston Masque—has been printed by Lord Londesborough, and is not to be purchased.

The Private Theatre of Kilkenny—was privately printed by Mr. Richard Power, and a copy may be met with; but it is a volume of excessive rarity; and the chronicle of the companies alone is a curious record. These amateur performances were established in 1802, and continued annually without interruption to 1811. They were occasionally and irregularly repeated in 1812, 1817, 1818, and 1819. Mr. Power died on the 18th December, 1824, and in 1825, copies, accompanied by some introductory observations, were presented to his personal friends. These copies contain a portrait of Mr. Power—of Grattan—of "Apollo" Crampton (Sir Philip Crampton's brother)—of Sir William Wrixon Becher—of Bushe—of Thomas Moore; and three other gentlemen whose features we do not recognise, as all the plates in the only copy we have seen are unlettered. The two female portraits we conjecture to have been intended for Miss Walstein, and Miss O'Neil—now Lady Becher.

Thomas Moore appears to have been a member of the Amateur Kilkenny Theatrical Company, in October, 1808. On the 19th, Mr. Moore, as he was called in the bills, enacted David in the Rivals, and Mungo in the Padlock; and on the 28th October (the 10th night of the season), Moore played Spado in the "Castle of Andalusia."

The Kilkenny season of 1809 commenced on the2n d October, with a prologue written and spoken by Moore—and among the ladies engaged to perform, the names of Miss Dyke, Miss E. Dyke, and Miss A. Dyke appear—one of whom is the present Mrs. Thomas Moore; and Moore again appeared as Spado. On the second night he played "Tom" in the farce of "Peeping Tom;" and on the third night personified "Sadi" in the "Mountaineers;" which character he repeated on the sixth night of the Kilkenny season (15th October, 1809), with his original part of "Spado." On the eighth night, Moore played "Risk" in "Love Laughs at Locksmiths;" and on the ninth night (20th October), again appeared as "Peeping Tom."

Moore rejoined the Kilkenny Theatricals in 1810, among the acting company of which association the names of Miss Dyke and Miss A. Dyke appear; and also that of Sir John Stevenson. And Moore then recited twice his Melologue on National Music (3rd and 19th October), which was termed in the bills "an occasional address." In the "Surrender of Calais," on the 5th, he personified "La Gloire," and "Sam" in the after-piece of "Raising the Wind." On the 8th Moore again appeared as "Spado;" and on the 12th (the sixth night's performance) as "Robin Rough-head" in "Fortunes' Frolics." On the 19th, an "Occasional Epilogue," written by Moore, was spoken by Mr. Corry, after the play of "the Dramatist," in the character of "Vapid." Moore on the eighth night personified "Walter" in "the Children in the Wood;" and on the ninth repeated his representation of "Risk." In Macbeth, on the twelfth night, he appeared as the first Witch—Sir John Stevenson performing one of the Singing Witches. And on the last night of this glorious theatrical meeting (20th October), Moore played once more his favourite part of "Peeping Tom."

Here ends Moore's history as preserved in the records of the "*Private Theatre of Kilkenny.*"

Art Union.—The little Almanac, published by this Association, for the use of its members, is a model almanac for those who desire to have such a pocket companion, and love to carry about with them useful references in the Fine Arts. But it is not to be pur-

chased; and although a very large number of copies have been put into circulation, must be classed among privately printed books. We regret only to notice the death of one of the Vice-Presidents of the Art-Union, the Marquis of Northampton, a nobleman as highly distinguished by his love of art, science, and literature, as he was universally respected and beloved by all who had the honour of his acquaintance. The excellence of his lordship's private character, and his amiable feelings, wherever they were known, stamp deep sorrow upon the heart for his loss at the age of sixty; and when, in the calculation of human probabilities, he might have been prominent in the hospitalities which the aristocracy will be required to shew to scientific and distinguished strangers during their visit to our National Exhibition.

The Literary Gazette—A change has taken place in the price and character of this weekly literary paper. It is reduced in price from four to three-pence, and in future will exclude from its columns notices of scientific discoveries and proceedings, the fine arts, music, and the drama;—devoting the whole of its space, unoccupied by advertisements, to literature. Correspondents were informed, on the 28th of December, that an Index to the volume for 1850 was in preparation, and would be published in a week or two. Up to the 24th of January (the day on which this goes to press), no title-page or index has appeared; and a subscriber has written a strong remonstrance about G. W.'s delay in binding the volume.

Transmutation of Knowledge.—We have just been informed, by the present proprietor, that the stereotype plates (weighing about ten tons) of that invaluable work, the *Encyclopædia Metropolitana*, have been disposed of to the eminent printers, Messrs. Clowes, who intend to melt them for the purpose of forming type to print the Catalogue of the Exhibition of the Industry of All Nations. For the privilege of printing this Catalogue, it is said that Messrs. Clowes have paid the large sum of £4000.

"What's in a Name?" A great deal sometimes. And in many cases high sounding titles go a greater way with the casual observer than the matter. Looking on the outside of a book you may sometimes be deceived in it. Magnificent binding would often add to that deception. My eyes rested on a little book, without a magnificent binding, at a bookstall, while sauntering along and thinking of "an infinite deal of nothing," [for it was after dinner]. Portwine on the Steam Engine! A glass of port wine I should have thought not amiss, but after a journey by railway it would not be nearly so much improved as Madeira would be from a voyage round the Cape. Thus moralising I turned to the title page, and found quite as much to my astonishment that it was actually the name of a fellow creature who had undertaken to write a book concerning the steam engine." — *From, we presume, a correspondent well acquainted with Punch.*

MASSACRE OF THE FRENCH PROTESTANTS.

"The medal faithful to its charge of fame," &c.

so sung our Pope—and here we have a second edition, if it may be so called, of the Medal struck by order of Pope Gregory XIII. on the massacre of the Hugonots, issued by Mr. Peter Whelan, dealer in Coins and Antiquities.

It bears on the obverse the portrait of the Pope. On the reverse the destroying Angel, in his right hand a sword, in his left a cross uplifted, and in the act of slaughtering, with the inscription, "VGONOTTORVM STRAGES, 1572."

LITHOGRAPHY AND LITHOTINT.

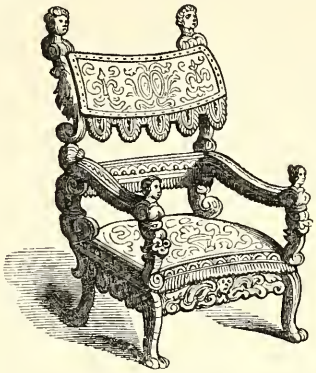
Sir Willoughby Gordon, whose name appears in our Obituary, was appointed Quartermaster-General of the Forces in 1811; and his name is there recorded as intimately connected with the history of Lithography in this country. It was with sincere regret that we had previously observed the decease of Mr. Charles Joseph Hullmandel, on the 15th November last, whose works and presses have also done much towards promoting the knowledge and power of this art. Mr. Hullmandel was the inventor, and, we believe, patentee of a most ingenious and valuable lithographic process, which he styled "lithotint," and which was founded on the application of the copper-plate aqua-tint process to stone. In the hands of an experienced artist, possessed of rapid execution, it is an inestimable discovery, as some of the works of Harding, Nash, Haghe, Walton, and other clever draughtsmen attest, in which all the raciness, smartness, and beauty of touch are apparent which hitherto could only be found in the original drawing. In fact, lithotint is not a translation, but a multiplication of the original; and its discovery, or rather the novel application of previous knowledge, forms an eventful era in the history of the Fine Arts.

Wanstead House.—The sale of a Collection of Portraits of the Tilney family, from Wanstead House, is announced by Messrs. Christie and Manson. There are some whole-lengths by Kneller, Dahl, and Hudson, with views of Wanstead House and park. They also announce the sale of about fifty Etruscan vases, collected by Dr. Braun, of Rome.

Colby House, Kensington.—The sale of books, ancient furniture, and paintings at this mansion, occupied four days—from the 15th to the 18th of January inclusive. The books were of no particular interest or value, and did not exceed 80 lots. There was some competition for Stowe's London, and Stowe's and Speed's Chronicles, from the Strawberry Hill Collection, the latter with annotations by Horace Walpole. Perhaps the most interesting book in the sale was Henry VIII.'s copy of the Works of Chrysostom, with the Royal Arms and initials on the binding. It was understood to have been bought for Cardinal Wiseman.

A suit of armour of Henry VII.'s time sold for sixteen guineas; and in the second day's sale, a chair, stated to be the Electoral Chair of Saxony produced

twenty-one guineas. An elaborate print, and the history of this chair, of which we give a sketch, may be



found in No. cxii. of the Builder, (29 March, 1845,) where its date is said to be about 1620.

Colby House was built by Sir Thomas Colby, who was created a Baronet in 1720, and died 23 Sept. 1729.

Doctor King, in "Anecdotes of his Time," (p. 36,) says:—"I knew one Sir Thomas Colby, who lived at Kensington, and was, I think, a Commissioner in the Victualling Office. He killed himself by rising in the middle of the night, when he was in a very profuse sweat, the effect of a medicine which he had taken for that purpose, and walking down stairs to look for the key of the cellar, which he had inadvertently left on a table in his parlour: he was apprehensive that his servant might seize the key and rob him of a bottle of port.

"This man died intestate, and left more than £200,000 in the funds, which was shared among five or six day-labourers, who were his nearest relations."

The fitting up and furnishing of Colby House in accordance with olden fashions, was the recent work of a gentleman named Baylis, who, it was stated, had disposed of the house to the Earl of Arundel and Surrey for a Roman Catholic establishment. This, however, may be mere gossip. The arras (five pieces) upon the walls of the room, in which the sale took place, produced fifty guineas. Several ladies of rank, and many distinguished literary characters, attended the sale, which throughout appeared to be watched with feelings of considerable interest, possibly from the history of many of the relics being known and valued for their associations. Such, for instance, as Edmund Burke's chair, which produced about ten times its original cost.

Sale of Antiquities, &c. — The Rev. Doctor Neligan's Sale of Antiquities "came off," as is said in sporting phraseology, on Monday, the 20th January, at Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson's establishment.

Dr. Neligan is described on the title page of the Sale Catalogue as "Rector and Vicar of the parish of St. Mary Shandon, in the City of Cork," and his Sale Catalogue contained some odd affairs.

Among others, Lot 83, "an Ancient Cross, found at Youghall, in the County of Cork," 6½ inches long, which was figured in the "Illustrated London News" of August 17, 1850, sold for £3. 6*s*.

Lot 91. "An Archbishop's Crosier, curiously ornamented and *gilt*, the bottom and other portions of engraved silver," produced only £4. 18*s*. And

Lot 26. "A small cross containing the wood of the supposed true cross; a silver Reliquary with *authenticated reliques*," &c., four articles in all, were knocked down at eighteen shillings!

An ancient silver cross of very curious workmanship, Lot. 39, produced £5. 12*s* 6*d*. But the struggle of the day was respecting Lot 83, "a magnificent elegantly shaped Roman Lamp, with Christian Monogram between the letters 'Alpha and Omega,' 11 inches long." This struggle occurred between Mr. Akerman, the Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, and the Earl of Cadogan. By the former it was secured for £16. 5*s*. But its genuineness has been questioned. Lord Cadogan subsequently became the purchaser of Lot 112, "A Lamp of peculiar form, the handle terminating with the head of a horse," described as "*a rare and fine specimen*," but equally questionable, for £4. 12*s* 6*d*.

"A Bust of Diana, the eyes of silver," Lot 112, was purchased by Mr. Akerman for £9. 15*s*.

Several specimens of ancient glass were divided between Lord Cadogan and Mr. Cureton, who was understood to purchase for the British Museum, at prices varying according to the interest of the lot from 19 shillings to £4. 17*s*.

The "beautifully Illuminated MSS." of which there were nine, and none of any particular beauty or value, sold at prices ranging from 18 shillings (Lot 128) to £19. 10*s* (Lot 134).

We should not omit to mention that a glass bead (Lot 63), although in an imperfect state, and evidently of early Venetian workmanship, was secured by Mr. Cureton at the extraordinary price of £1. 7*s*.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Davis, T. S. (F.R.S., F.S.A.), author of several works on mathematics, at Broom Hall Cottage, Shooter's Hill, aged 57. 6th January.

Gordon, Right Hon. Sir James Willoughby, born 1772, Bart., G.C.B., Quarter-Master-General of the Forces. 4th January.

Howison, Wm. (A.R.S.A.), born Edinburgh, 1778, line engraver; in Frederick Street, Edinburgh. 20th January.

Macdonald, Alexander, Keeper of the Register of Deeds and Protests in Scotland. He is said to have supplied Sir Walter Scott with notes and illustrations to the "Waverley Novels."

Maxwell, W. H., the Irish Novelist, at Musselburgh, near Edinburgh. 29th December, 1850.

Newcastle, Duke of (whose published writings are political), at Clumber Park, Notts, aged 66. 12th January.

Northampton, Marquis of (the successor of H.R.H. the Duke of Sussex, as President of the Royal Society), at Castle Ashby, Northamptonshire, aged 60. 17th January.

Schumacher (Professor), Astronomer at Altona. 28th December, 1850.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. II.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [FEB. 1851.

BENTLEY'S MISCELLANY.—Extracted from an unpublished note, dated 23rd November, 1838.

"Behold our party:—

	1.	
10.		2.
9.		3.
8.		4.
7.	6.	5.

1. Our Amphictyon.—2. Luttrell.—3. Moore.—4. Campbell.—5. Ainsworth.—6. Jerdan.—7. Moran.—8. Lover.—9. Barham.—10. Boz.

The Jury consisted of eight, and I thought of the remark of Horne Tooke, or some other, when the judge snubbed him,—"My Lord, the case is between myself and the jury; your Lordship and the crier attend to your respective places." Bentley was his Lordship, and I the—no, not cryer, any how, nobody can accuse me of *that* much.

"We were funny—No. 4. went first, and 2 and 3 followed. The rest of us kept it up. * * * Lover sang two songs. Moore did not. Excuse this queer note, but I thought you'd like to hear of us. You will see we stood (sat) three Irish and two Scotch to five Englishers."

4. *died* 15*th June*, 1844.—7. 6*th October*, 1849.—9. 17*th June*, 1845.

THEODORE HOOK'S NOTES ON LONDON.—After Hook's death his books were sold by auction by Mr. Edmund Robins, at his rooms in Covent Garden, November, 1841. Hook's library was neither extensive nor select, but lot 333, thus described in the Catalogue, "Microcosm of London, with an infinity of very fine engravings, 3 vols. R. Ackerman," possessed a peculiar interest from having been filled with his manuscript notes. The work itself is well known as "Ackerman's Microcosm of London." It was published in parts between the years 1808 and 1811; and the coloured plates, executed by Pugin and Rowlandson, of the interiors and exteriors of the public buildings, &c. of the metropolis, are accompanied by letter-press descriptions.

Hook, at the time that he made these notes (1834), contemplated writing an account of the streets of London. We give a complete list of the plates, as they may afford an opportunity hereafter of following out his idea of commenting upon the important changes which have taken and are taking place in the British Metropolis.

"1834. I have made memoranda throughout this work of the alterations which have taken place in the buildings and institutions which it represents and illustrates between the period at which it was published and the present time—they strike me as curious."

THEODORE E. HOOK.

Royal Academy.—The Royal Academy is removed from Somerset House, and the subject of this (the Life Academy) print has ceased to exist. 1839.

The Exhibition at Somerset House no longer exists. 1839.

The Admiralty.—Astley's Amphitheatre.

The Asylum or House of Refuge.—1834. Since this print was executed, the old buildings of the asylum, the matron's house, &c. I believe every part of it, except the chapel, have been pulled down and rebuilt.

The entrance which used to be in the Westminster Bridge Road, has been removed to what is called the Lambeth Road, and many great improvements have been made.

Christie's Auction Room.

The Bank.—1834. Since the opposite print was published, the Bank has undergone the most extensive changes—the front, which I am almost afraid to say, I think was very much handsomer as it was, has been completely rebuilt from designs by Sir John Soane—the whole building has been insulated and finished in *one* style.

Bartholomew Fair.—Billingsgate.

The Blue Coat School.—1834. The hall here represented exists no more. On its site stands one of the most beautiful specimens of imitation of Gothic I ever saw. The design was made by Mr. Shaw, architect to the Institution, who is since dead, and does the greatest honour to his taste and judgment. Other essential improvements have been made; new schools have been built, and an opening with a pallisade made to Newgate Street, which gives to the public eye a beautiful view of the interior

Bow Street Office.—1834. The whole of this building has been reconstructed, and the public house opposite, known for so many years as the Brown Bear, has been removed, and upon its site a police station has been erected.

Bridewell.—British Institution.

The British Museum.—1834. Since this print was published, the buildings of the British Museum have most wonderfully increased. Galleries for the Elgin marbles have been erected, and above all, the splendid room for the reception of the King's library, the munificent gift of the true *King* George IVth, to the nation. To what extent those buildings may be

carried I know not, but what has been yet done has been done with taste and judgment.

Carlton House, 1834. Not a vestige of this building remains. On its site stand those splendid houses which form Carlton House Terrace—the United Service Club and the Athenæum. Where were its gardens, the Column to the memory of the Duke of York rears its head, and where its court yard received the Prince's visitors, we find "Waterloo-Place,"—Place named after a victory for ever glorious, but not thought of when the print was engraved.

The Roman Catholic Chapel, Lincoln's Inn Fields, 1834. Since this print was engraved, the Roman Catholics have been emancipated. In 1780, the people were Protestant and burned the chapel down, to secure themselves against Popish domination. In *our* times the people went *with* the Papists, and their disabilities were removed.

Coal Exchange.

The Royal Cockpit.—Bird Cage Walk, St. James's Park. 1834. This building no longer exists.

Cold-bath Fields Prison.

College of Physicians. 1834. The building here represented no longer exists. The College of Physicians in Warwick Lane was sold to different merchants and manufacturers, and a splendid edifice erected for the use of that learned body at the corner of Pall Mall East.

House of Commons. 1834. The House of Commons, with all its offices and appurtenances, (and the Speaker's House, and the House of Lords), was burned down on the night of Thursday the 16th of October this year.

The Court of Chancery, Lincoln's Inn Hall.

Court of Common Pleas, Westminster Hall, 1834. This Court—at least as represented in the print—no longer exists. It has been rebuilt after a design of Sir John Soane, and narrowly escaped destruction by fire on the 16th of October.

Court of King's Bench, Westminster Hall, 1834. The Court represented on the opposite print ceases to exist. It was pulled down at the time of the Coronation of King George the Fourth, and has been rebuilt on the side of Westminster Hall, and close to the entrance of it.

Court of Exchequer, Westminster Hall. Like the others, this Court ceases to exist. At the time this view was taken it occupied the site of the present Court of King's Bench.

Covent Garden Market, 1834. The whole of Covent Garden Market has, since the publication of the opposite print, been pulled down and rebuilt in a convenient, and even classical manner, by the ground landlord, the Duke of Bedford, who no doubt has raised his rents in proportion to the outlay.

Covent Garden Theatre. The Theatre here represented ceases to exist. It was burned down in the October of the year in which the plate opposite was published (1808).

The Custom House, from the Thames, 1834. The building represented in the opposite print ceases to exist. It was totally consumed by fire, February 12, 1814. It was rebuilt on a magnificent scale, and then some part of it tumbled down. It has been again repaired, and is a most beautiful and commodious building.

Debating Society (Meeting Room, 22, Piccadilly), 1834. The room here noticed ceases to exist. It sank before the magnificent improvements in the Quadrant, for which the people of London are indebted to the genius and indefatigable exertion of Mr. Nash—one of the worst used men in the world.

Doctors' Commons.

Drury Lane, 1834. The theatre represented in the opposite plate was burned down on the 24th of February, 1809. It was rebuilt and opened to the public on the 10th of October, 1812. It was subsequently contracted and altered by Mr. S. Beazley, and now remains as he altered it.

END OF VOLUME THE FIRST.

ARCHÆOLOGY.—An ancient crown of gold, or more probably a funereal diadem, has been recently melted down in Cork. It was purchased by a silversmith from a peasant, was very thin, and weighed about 1 oz. 6 dwts.; the centre was a kind of flower, and the rest of the field presented ivy leaves and berries, in the Greek style of art. The silversmith asked £15. for it, but the Cork antiquaries, by whom it was seen, did not consider it to be worth more than half that sum, as it had been crumpled up and otherwise injured, and its gothic proprietor disappointed at not immediately realizing his expectations, consigned to the crucible this interesting relic.

I. L.

Charles I. was an Archæologist, and a collector of the golden ornaments so frequently found in Ireland; that this was the case is proved by Lord Strafford's letters, in one of which from Mr. Secretary Coke to the Lord Deputy Wentworth, the following passage occurs—"If more antiquities shall come to your hands, the sending them to His Majesty will be a very acceptable service." (II. 80.) And on the 6th January, 1638, the Lord Deputy thus writes to the King. (II. 267):—

"May it please your Majesty,

"Some years past there was found in the ground a silver seal of one of the Kings of Connaught, which I then sent your Majesty. Now as it seems one of their bits of gold, weighing ten ounces, was in like sort chanced upon lately in the County of Gallway, which I herewith present your Majesty with. I have sent to dig there again, in case any more of the furniture thereto belonging might be found; and I wish and trust the reins of your Majesty's blessed Government shall equally constrain the hand, as graciously guide the sweet-mouthed subject to your eternal honour

and glory. God long preserve your Majesty. Your Majesty's most faithful and most humble subject and servant.

"WENTWORTH."

A LESSON FOR FOREIGNERS in English pronunciation. The literal combination of *ough* in the two following lines, is given by no less than seven different sounds—

o *uf* *off* *up* *ow* *oo*
Though a tough cough and hiccough plough me through,
ock
O'er life's dark lough my course I still pursue.

M. M.

PAUL DELAROCHE'S fine picture of Cromwell contemplating the dead body of Charles has, we believe, no better historical foundation than the following memorandum which occurs among the Harleian MSS. (991) in a small book written by Mr. Richard Symonds, "When the King was beheaded, the body and head were put into a coffin and set in the Banquetting-house. Oliver Cromwell came with one Bowtell of Framlingham in Suffolk, and tried to open the lid with his staff, but could not; then he took Bowtell's sword, and with the pummel knocked up the lid (of the coffin), and looked upon the King shewing him to Bowtell.

"Then at that time, this Bowtell asked him, 'What Government we should have?' He said, 'The same that is now.' (*This Bowtell told Colonel Rolson.*)" R. J. S.

COLBY HOUSE. We have referred to Atthill's Middleham, published by the Camden Society, for the information to which our attention was directed respecting the Colby family, and find that Christopher Colby, the Dean of Middleham, was the second son of John Colby, Esq. of Bowbridge Hall, in the North Riding of Yorkshire, called also Colby Hall; also that the Dean was a native of Wensleydale, and died 9th of July, 1727, aged 83. The inscription in Kensington Church records that Sir Thomas Colby, Bart. died 23rd of September. 1729—that he was the son of Philip Colby, who was also buried there with Thomas, the uncle of Sir Thomas and several others of the family. We are therefore at a loss to understand how "it appears" that Dean Colby "was of this family." F.

MONOGRAM has been defined as "a cypher or character composed of letters," but it is not very easy to draw the line between merchants' marks and monograms, as some merchants used the monogram of their name for their brand or mark. "John Cole," in the Borough of London, for instance.

Lord Glenelg's signature was wittily compared to a monogram,

"That charming, convenient, and flexible name,
Which backwards or forwards is always the same."

Painters' and sculptors' marks or monograms have, generally speaking, a distinct character from those of merchants; so have masons' marks, which are supposed to be of high antiquity, and those of printers, which of course must be comparatively speaking very recent; and yet it is impossible to define any of these distinct classes with precision.

Some have a punning construction, which may be familiarly illustrated by Mr. Leech marking his sketches by a leech in a bottle. This is called a Rebus—again: "Il y a des lettres qui signifient quelquefois des Rébus, c'est-à-dire, qui etant prononcées avec d'autres Lettres ou Figures ne forment plus le nom d'une Lettre de l'Alphabet, mais plutôt le sens d'une syllabe ou d'un mot entier. C'est ainsi, par exemple, que *Robeta* en écrivant son nom par *Rbeta* prétendoit sans doute qu'on prononcât l'R par *Ro* à la façon des Grecs; et il auroit pu pousser plus loin ce jeu de Lettres ou de Syllabes en substituant aux deux syllabes *Beta* un B ou Beta grec, qui avec le Ro auroit formé *Robeta*, ou en adoptant pour sa marque la figure d'un Crapeau (*Rubeta*)."

Sometimes, however, the combination of simple initial letters is quite as enigmatical as any device; take the following monogram, which occurs beneath an Earl's coronet, with the date 1703 as an additional clue.

Notwithstanding that this is obviously compounded of the letters L. I. C. or C. I. L. and at the first glance with the connexion of an Earl's coronet and a date, would appear to present no difficulty respecting the correct appropriation, our Correspondent is unable to discover by whom it was used, and would feel obliged for information on the point. C.

MERCHANTS' MARKS.—One is figured in the "Gentleman's Magazine" for March, 1843, p. 268, from the window of an old house at King's Lynn, Norfolk.—Several other engraved examples may be produced. S. C. H.

"SIR,—In reference to the observations in your last number on 'Merchants' Marks,' I beg to direct your attention to a very elaborate illustrated paper on the subject, by Mr. Ewing, published by the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society, at the expense of Mr. Hudson Gurney, the late liberal Vice President of the Society of Antiquaries. I am sure had the paper to which you allude as rejected by that body, been presented while Mr. Gurney was Vice President, it would not have been passed over for want of money.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
A. DU MOYEN-AGE.

Newport, Isle of Wight,
Feb. 8th, 1851.

HORSLEY, THE HISTORIAN, is often confounded with the Bishop of that name, who was an ex-

ceedingly voluminous writer, and lived many years later. In a work on the Roman wall, published by the Rev. J. C. Bruce, there is a biographical notice of the illustrious author of the "Britannia Romana," which is painfully interesting, and most probably all that can be now told about one of the most industrious and learned of our English antiquaries, and at the same time one of the most neglected. Compare the sound comprehensive views and elaborate compilation of the "Britannia Romana," produced by a poor man, with the meagre and very incomplete work, "Materials for the History of Britain," produced under the auspices of Government, at the cost of upwards of £10,000. Half of this expensive and comparatively useless book, is a transcript from poor Horsley's great work, the author of which, Mr. Bruce observes, "as regards the honours and enjoyments of this world, died an utterly unrequited man. Even of that bubble, posthumous fame, an attempt was made to rob him. Warburton in his "Vallum Romanum," transfers Horsley 'in bulk' to his pages; he even copies, without alteration, the opinions which Horsley expresses in the first person. The honest Hutton often quotes 'the judicious Warburton,' little knowing whose the feathers are which he so justly admires!" Horsley, the historian, was born, Mr. Bruce tells us, in an unknown locality in the north of Britain, and spent the greater portion of his life as the pastor of a Presbyterian congregation at Morpeth. "Respecting him who recorded the mighty doings of the Romans in Britain, the parish clerk of Morpeth made the following entry in the Church-yard Calendar: buried, '1731-2, *Jan.* 15, *Mr. John Horsley.*' Even the parish clerk, in his attachment to the altar and the throne, denies him, in the sepulchral register, the title which, courtesy, at least, would have accorded him." The "*Monumenta Historica Britannica*"—the English Government book of £10,000 is a failure, both as regards its professed object, and also as a mercantile speculation; for in the curious facts laid before Parliamant respecting its history, it was proved that people would not buy it, while it was proved also that the officials sat gravely over it at its birth to regulate the price at which *it should be sold!* The public cared not for it, and scholars were too poor to buy. The price has *twice* been reduced; still no buyers; but the Treasury does not find it right to give the book away, although the labours of others have been very unscrupulously used in getting up this costly national affair.

S. R.

Gun Money.—I. W. W. is referred to Lindsay's View of the Coinage of Ireland (1839), p. 58, and to a publication of the Percy Society, entitled, "The Historical Songs of Ireland, illustrative of the Revolutionary struggle between James II. and William III. (1841), p. 123. Old cannon, bells, pots, &c. were coined into crowns, halfcrowns, shillings, and sixpences, which were made current by James's proclamations, as if a coinage of silver.

> "That I had never seen the light,
> If James had never run,
> That I in Dublin was begot,
> And was a Cannon's son."

So runs an old ballad.

Don Carlos was said also to have issued gun money; but from a gentleman who was in the north of Spain in 1839, I have obtained the following particulars upon this subject. He does not believe that there ever was a coinage of Carlos V. At Villa Real he heard of some illegal coiners who were taken up and punished by the Carlists. The brass coinage which was in circulation at St. Sebastian and Passages, and which was attributed to the Carlists, bore the head of Isabella the 2nd. It was evidently of bell metal, and from the roughness of the workmanship, probably never came from any mint, but was cast in sand; the pieces were larger, and contained more metal than the usual copper coin. They were termed, "*La pieza de dos Cuartos*;" seventeen were equal to four "*realles*," or the silver coin a "*peseta*," which was about the value of a French franc. He thinks it very likely that these were of Carlist manufacture, from bells taken out of the monasteries by them; but he had never seen a coin of Carlos V.

T. C. C.

Mosey MacGill.—A subscriber enquires, "Where is the passage to be found?—As Mosey MacGill says —'Single misfortunes never come alone.'" It occurs in the letter of a distinguished poet, written in 1812.

A. P.

Nell Gwynne's letter, most kindly forwarded to us, has been printed in Boydell's "Heads of illustrious and celebrated Persons, generally connected with the History of Great Britain, in the reigns of James I., Charles II., and James II." Folio, 1811, p. 48.

The transcript has been returned, as requested, with our grateful thanks.

California.—A note in the volume, recently issued by the Hakluyt Society, of the Collection of Voyages published by the individual whose name the Society bears, and edited by John Winter Jones, Esq. of the British Museum, states that, "The voyage of Drake, in which he discovered and took possession of California, under the name of New Albion, was performed in the years 1577-80." And that "there is no circumstance connected with this voyage calculated to raise hopes of the practicability of the North-west passage, beyond the fact, that Drake sailed as high as the forty-eighth degree of north latitude, with the bold design of returning home by a north-east

passage, and still found an open sea before him; at this point, however, the sufferings of his men from cold, obliged him to turn southwards again. It is worthy of notice, that in the description of New Albion, contained in the account of this voyage, the following passage occurs: 'There is no part of earth here to be taken up, wherein there is not some probable show of gold or silver.'"—*Hakluyt*, v. iii. p. 730.

Like the Camden, Percy, and other Societies, the annual subscription to the Hakluyt is one guinea. The present number of members is above three hundred, and Mr. Major, of the British Museum, is the Secretary. T. F. D.

Tobacco.—It is not generally known that the name tobacco, which we apply to the plant smoked, was given to it from the pipe through which it was smoked. The author of a rare book upon Tobago, says—"By the way, I do not recollect any author who has given a clear account of this name, and as many have expressed a doubt, whether the island was so called from the herb, or the herb from the island; I hope the curious and inquisitive reader will be well pleased to see that matter set in its true light. For the fact is, that neither the island received its name from the herb, nor the herb from the island. The appellation is indeed Indian, and yet was bestowed by the Spaniards. The thing happened thus. The Caribbees were extremely fond of tobacco, which in their language they called *Kohiha*, and fancied when they were drunk with the fumes of it, the dreams they had were in some sort inspired. Now their method of taking it was this: they first made a fire of wood, and when it was burnt out, they scattered upon the living embers the leaves of the plant, and received the smoke of it by the help of an instrument that was hollow, made exactly in the shape of the letter Y, putting the longer tube into the smoke, and thrusting the shorter tubes up their nostrils. This instrument they called *Tobago*, and when the Admiral Christopher Columbus passed to the southward of this island, he judged the form of it to resemble that instrument, and thence it received its name."

Clay tobacco pipes of this shape are frequently found in England, Scotland, and Ireland, upon turning up ground which had been occupied by the troops of Charles I. and the Parliamentary party, and also by those of James II. and William III. In the latter case, clay, and sometimes iron and brass pipes, with bowls of much larger dimensions, are found mingled among pipes of smaller size, and with bowls of barrel-shape fashion, as here shewn.

An old silver tobacco-box, which we heard of in Wiltshire, as having belonged to a Mr. Pynsent, who left all his estates in Somersetshire to the great Lord Chatham, "from admiration of his talents and patriotism," (we know not whether they ever smoked together,) was engraved with the following lines under a death's head:—

"Mens ignis, Tubulus corpus, mihi vitaque fumus
Herba penus, clavus fata, suprema cinis.
P. M. ✱ E. E."

Which have been rendered:

"Of lordly man, how humbling is the type,
A fleeting shadow, a tobacco pipe!
His mind the fire, his frame the tube of clay,
His breath the smoke so idly puffed away,
His food the herb that fills the hollow bowl,
Death is the stopper. Ashes end the whole."

T. M.

Newspapers. The Historical Society of New York possess a collection of 1400 volumes of Newspapers, arranged and bound, and what will make about 50 volumes more when classified. Of these volumes 76 are English, 63 French, and 1255 American Newspapers. The earliest English Newspaper in the collection is a volume for 1696 of the London Flying Post, &c. The earliest American Newspaper, and the first published in the country, is the Boston News Letter, of which the file is complete from its first number, printed in 1704, to the close of the fourth volume in 1708. It is not known that another copy of this newspaper, for the period mentioned, is in existence. Of French Newspapers, the file of the 'Moniteur Universelle,' is complete from the first number issued on the 3rd of May, 1789 to the 1st April, 1815,—54 volumes. This set of the 'Moniteur,' covering the whole period of the career of Napoleon, was taken to America by a French gentleman from Paris, at the sale of whose effects sometime afterwards in New York, Mr. Greenhow, then acting Librarian, purchased it for the Historical Society. It possesses the greater historical value from the fact that it is the original edition, copies of which are now rare. Not long after the Society obtained possession of the work, the ex-King, Joseph Bonaparte, hearing of the sale of this copy, and that it was the original edition, became very anxious to purchase it, and commissioned a gentleman to offer a thousand dollars for the set now in the library of the Historical Society of New York.

The Society disposed of 153 duplicate volumes of newspapers for the sum of four hundred dollars. S.

The Architectural, Archæological and Historic Society for the County, City, and Neighbourhood of Chester, have issued the first Number of the Journal of their proceedings to the 123 Members which compose the Society. At the first public meeting the Bishop of Chester presided. The inaugural address was delivered by the Rev. Chancellor Raikes.—This, with papers on the course of the Dee, by the Mayor of Chester—On Christian Monuments by Mr. Hicklin, the Secretary—On the Roman Condate in Cheshire, by Arch-

deacon Wood—On a tiled floor uncovered near St. Michael's Church, by Mr. Harrison—On a bridge found buried at Birkenhead by the Rev. W. H. Massie, and on the Norman remains of Chester Cathedral by Mr. Ayrton, form the contents of this interesting volume.

Mr. Hicklin has treated his subject in a popular manner—and this is much more likely to produce the effect at which he aims, a reformation of Christian memorials in the new cemetery recently opened in Chester—than if he wrote in a less lively style.

"In Nottinghamshire" he informs us, "stands, or stood a few years since, a grave stone commemorative of an ancient dame, who, at all events, was no believer in modern Teetotalism.

"She drank good punch, good ale and wine,
And lived to the age of ninety and nine."

It is to be hoped that this 'good old age' was accompanied by a temperate use of those liquids, or some mischievous inferences might be drawn by determined tipplers from such a record. Of its highly offensive character in a place of Christian sepulture there cannot be two opinions. The wit of a former generation has sometimes been exemplified in enigmatical inscriptions, the strangest and most perplexing of which is said to exist in Herefordshire, to the memory of a churchwarden of Llandinabo; and thus runs this classical puzzle:—

TEMPLUM, BELLUM, SPELUNCA,
DE TERRA IN ARCU.

Thus translated,

CHURCH - WAR - DEN
OF LLAND - IN - A - BO.

A terribly bad pun, but one of the queerest bits of whimsicality which can probably be found in Christian burial places.

"It is necessary too, to see, when an inscription has been decided upon, that stone cutters understand what they are about; as Mr. Paget, in his "Tract upon Tombstones," relates an amusing instance, in which the words *Requieseat in pace* were to be carved, whereupon the workman, thinking that in an epitaph a rhyme was indispensable, thus indulged his fancy,

REQUIESCE
CAT IN PACE."

We shall return to this Journal of the Chester Archæological Association. A.

Lady Morgan and her Italy.—At a recent literary dinner it was proposed for a whimsical wager, to write impromptu inscriptions upon the chairs around the table, assuming that the imaginary guests should be recognised by their styles. It was agreed that the inscriptions might be in prose or verse, but as "brevity is the soul of wit," none were to exceed forty words of sense or nonsense, and ten minutes only were allowed for the production. Inscriptions were accordingly written, in imitation of Dickens, Douglas Jerrold, Moore, Payne Collier, Croly and Lady Morgan. The latter was declared to be the best, with permission for the five other epigrammatists to excel it in brevity at the rate of a minute per word (13.):—

"Be seated and most welcome be
On this old chair, *ma chère amie.*" B.

In less than ten minutes the following nine words were produced:—

"Sit down if you *plaize*
On this old *chaise.* P.

"I owe my triumph," modestly observed the writer, "to the newspaper hubbub about Lady Morgan's Italy, which induced me to read the book with reference to the Papal question; and I have seldom found so much curious and interesting matter pleasantly brought together. My successful epigram only represents her Ladyship's fault of style—the blending of Foreign languages with the English, and occasionally the introduction of an Irishism. But this blemish does not detract from the valuable information any one may receive from the perusal of Lady Morgan's Italy."

Rome-antique News from Paris. Feb. 8.—"At half-past 2 o'clock, M. Dupin, President, took the chair, when the Assembly granted, without discussion, by 569 to 33, a credit of 61,000f. for repairing the Roman Ampitheatre of Arles."—*The Times.*

One Good Turn deserves another, is an old saw. Mr. Payne Collier's "Shakespeare's Library," shews the extent to which our immortal bard was indebted for his dramas to Novelists. Mrs. Cowden Clarke's series of Novelettes, founded upon the history of Shakespeare's heroines, and now in the course of publication, exhibit a clever specimen of literary reprisal. We believe the joke upon this old saw, that "One good turn deserves another," was Charles Lamb's.

Mr. Amyot's Library.—The sale of the Library of the late Treasurer of the Society of Antiquaries took place on Monday, Feb. 10th, and three following days. There was a large collection of useful topographical and historical books, and considering their condition was by no means good, they produced high prices. No works of any rarity occurred. A very bad copy of the first folio Shakespeare, title, verses, and last leaf reprinted, produced £24. A copy of the second folio, quite perfect, but only in moderate condition, produced £7. 12*s* 6*d*. The latter was purchased by Mr. Halliwell, now engaged in giving to America a new edition of Shakespeare. The privately printed books, which fetched very high prices, were, we believe, bought in for the family. An imperfect set of the publications of the Percy Society was bought by a bookseller for £5. 7*s* 6*d*.

General Hoche, "of French Revolution no-

toriety;" his memoirs have not been published in English. "Vie de Lazare Hoche, Général des armées de la République Française, par Alexandre Rousselin," appeared in Paris "An VI. de la République," in 2 vols. 8vo. and certainly passed through more than one edition. His portrait was prefixed to the first volume, with the following motto from Horace beneath it:—

> "Non ille pro caris amicis
> Aut patriâ timidus perire."

The dedication of this work runs thus:—

A
LA RÉPÛBLIQUE
ÉTERNELLE

Here there is a great blank space which History has filled up.

L'UN DE SES ENFANS,
ALEXANDRE ROUSSELIN.

Hoche's autograph may be procured, and we annex a facsimile of it.

F. A. C.

NEW PUBLICATIONS.—According to *The Publishers' Circular*, the number of books, pamphlets, and sermons, published in Great Britain, from January 1850 to January 1851, is as follows:—

Books		3959
Pamphlets:—		
Miscellaneous . .	622	
On the Papal Question .	222	
Sermons on the Papal Question	86	
Sermons on Various Subjects .	135	— 1065
		5024 E.

LITERATURE IN FRANCE.—"It appears that in 1850, there were published in France 7208 books and pamphlets of all kinds, of which 4711 have been printed at Paris, 2460 in the departments, and 37 in Algeria. Of this total, 1360 are reprints or new editions, and 5848 new works; 6661 were in the French language, 68 in provincial idioms, 53 in German, 61 English, 2 Arabic, 51 Spanish, 83 Greek, 9 Hebrew, 16 Italian, 165 Latin, 14 Polish, 16 Portuguese, 4 Roumain, 1 Russian, 2 Turkish, 2 Polyglotts."—*Journal de la Librairie.* E.

A PAINFUL WORD.—*The late Lord Louth* wrote an excuse to a dinner invitation upon the plea of his having a bad fit of the gout. His friend enquired the next day after his gout. "Gout," replied his Lordship, "I have had no gout." "Why, what do you mean?" said his friend, "you yourself made that the excuse for not dining with me." "Oh! now I understand," was Lord Louth's comment, "but shew me the man that can spell rheumatism!" L.

THEODORE HOOK.—Mr. Barham, in his life of this celebrated wit, justly observes, that "Any man reckless of legal consequences, or beyond their reach, familiar with the current scandal of the day, and having so powerful an engine as a public paper at his disposal, may inflict a vast amount of injury upon his adversaries."

"LORD JOHN RUSSELL has unsolicitedly appointed the second son of Mr. Douglas Jerrold to a Clerkship in the Treasury."—*The Weekly Dispatch, 26th January.*

SIR EDWARD, GEORGE, EARLE, LYTTON, BULWER, LYTTON, BART. was gazetted on the 4th February, as Deputy-Lieutenant of Hertfordshire.

HOGARTH'S MONUMENT, Chiswick Churchyard, is stated in the "Illustrated London News" (Feb. 8) to be "falling into a perilous condition." The small tenements in the neighbourhood of the painter's house at Chiswick are called "*the New Town.*" The Duke of Devonshire's friends call them *the Nuisance.*

EPIGRAM addressed to G. W.:—

> Don't let your second number be too keen,
> But lay up powder in your magazine.
> *Audit Office.*

This hint of a kind and witty Correspondent, G. W. sets store by.

BRITISH MUSEUM CATALOGUES.—The "Gentleman's Magazine" says, there have been lately added, "A Catalogue of Maps, in 78 vols.; a Catalogue of Music, in 45 vols.; and a Catalogue of Authors of Words set to Music, in 12 vols."

CANNING, MOORE, JEFFREY, BYRON, AND HOOK.—A Subscriber, who assures us that he really wants to ascertain only the dates and references correctly, inquires whether "P. G." of "the Monthly Mirror," 1809, &c. was not Canning, and whether Canning was not the author of those remarkable "Lines written on a leaf of Little's poems," which conclude thus—

> "Then, when time steals *my* years away,
> My *mem'ry* let him steal.
> Or if remembrance still *must* stay,
> Ah! let me cease to *feel!*"

And further, the date when Canning took up his residence at Gloucester Lodge? "Of the circumstances of his duel I should also be glad of any particulars," adds our Correspondent; "but they are pretty well known."

"The date—I mean the precise date—of Moore's duel with Jeffrey, I have searched for in vain through a score of volumes at least. Byron refers to it,

"When Little's leadless pistol met his eye,
And Bow Street myrmidons stood laughing by."

This arose out of an article in No. 16 of the Edinburgh Review; and Hook's biographer (Mr. Barham) refers to it in his usual loose way, as an epigram of Hook's, attributed to the authors of "Rejected Addresses."

"When Anacreon would fight, as the poets have said,
A reverse he displayed in his vapour,
For while all his poems were loaded with lead,
His pistols were loaded with paper.
For excuses, Anacreon old custom may thank,
Such a *salvo* he should not abuse,
For the cartridge, by rule, is always made blank
Which is fired away at *the Reviews*."

Ingoldsby Letters (*Original*).—The following extracts are from letters of the late Rev. R. H. Barham (1841), which have been kindly forwarded to us:

"What do you mean by *Advent Preachers?* I never heard of such creatures.

"In Lent, the Bishop of London appoints certain clergymen to preach at certain churches on Wednesdays and Fridays, and against these, I suspect, you have been knocking your Milesian head. Did you never hear the old rhyme—

"To the Church then I went,
But I grieved and I sorrowed,
For the preacher was *lent*
And the sermon was *borrowed!*"

"I read yesterday, in a Canterbury paper, an account of three whales having been observed off Folkestone. It is a tradition in the county that no native of Folkestone could ever make a rhyme; and that in the early part of the last century, an inhabitant obtained the office of Town Clerk by being the author of the following *quasi* poem on a similar event.

"There was a Whale
Came down the Chan-*nel;*
The Dover men could not catch it,
But the Folkestone men did."

Foreign Estimation of Irish Dogs.—Sir George Carew, Ambassador in France, writes to Lord Salisbury. The MS. is in the State Paper Office, and dated—

"26th September, 1606.

"This bearer, your servant, returning after his painful and careful journey hither, with the present of Irish dogs unto Monsieur Vitry, I must first testify for him that he brought them hither in good estate.

"Upon his arrival, I sent to know whether Monsieur Vitry were at his own house, or at court, and where he would have them delivered. So I understood that he was at court; and received answer from him that he would gladly have le beau present brought to Fontainbleau, that the King might see it. The which being come thither, the King and he were absent at Marett, on hunting; and returning late, Monsieur Vitry, to lose no time, caused the dogs to be led, with torchlight, presently into the court. But the King, deferring his seeing of them til the morrow morning, Monsieur Delavardin, his uncle, at whose lodging Monsieur Vitry supped, desired his cousin to give him the greatest dog. Vitry walked up and down, looking upon the dogs, and found talk to others, to avoid answering Delavardin. The next morning, when they were led to the King again, he kept back that fairest dog, lest the King should beg him, and carried the six other (for there came one more than your Lordship mentioned in your letters.) In sum, he seemed to be much joyed with this present and honour done him by your Lordship."

Crossed Bankers' Checks.—If lost, through the post, or otherwise, two parallel lines drawn across a check are insufficient to secure its payment by means of one Banking-house passing it to another, and thus enabling the parties to trace it. To effect the object of *securely* crossing a check, "and Co" should be written between the parallel lines, leaving sufficient room to the party for whom the check was intended to insert the first name of the Banking firm before the words "and Co."

The Byng Papers were purchased by the Right Hon. the Lords Commissioners of the Admiralty, from G. Willis, in 1849. Robert Lemon, Esq. F.S.A. of the State Paper Office, examined these interesting documents, and reported upon them to their Lordships, and the collection is now preserved in the custody of John Barrow, Esq. F.R.S. among the official Admiralty Records. T. C. C.

G. Willis most gratefully acknowledges the vote of the Council of *the Percy Society*, at their meeting on the 6th instant.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Abell, Abraham, M.R.I.A. Antiquary. Academy Street, Cork, aged nearly 68. 12th February.

Audubon, John James, Naturalist, 155th Street, New York, aged 76. 27th January.

Bexley, Lord (Vansittart), D.C.L. F.R.S. F.S.A. Born 29th April, 1766. Politics and Finance. Footscray, Kent. 8th February.

Layland, Joseph Bentley, Sculptor, of Leeds. 28th Jan.

Lortzing (German), Musical Composer, Berlin. January.

Shelley, Mrs. Novelist, 21, Chester Square, Pimlico, aged 53. 1st February.

Smith, Rev. J. Pye, D.D. Theology and Geology. Guildford, Surrey, aged 77. 5th February.

Spontini (Italian), Musical Composer. Born 17th November, 1778, at Majolati, near Ancona, where he died 24th January.

Thorpe, Thomas. Bookseller. Henrietta Street, Covent Garden, aged 59. 17th February.

Correction.—Although it was Sir Walter Scott's remark, "*It is ill making holes in one's own stockings for the purpose of darning them again, darn we never so neatly.*"

Davis, T. S., whose death we recorded in our last number, was not a F.S.A. as our Correspondent S. R. informs us. We copied a newspaper paragraph.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. III.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [MARCH, 1851.

No. 1. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—GENERAL POST-OFFICE.—On and after the 1st of March printed books, magazines, reviews, and pamphlets (whether British, Colonial, or Foreign), may be transmitted by the post between the United Kingdom and the British West Indies, Bermuda, Newfoundland, Hong Kong (*via* Southampton), Malta (ditto), Gibraltar (ditto), at the following reduced rates of postage, viz.:—

	s.	*d.*
For each packet not exceeding ½lb. in weight .	0	6
Ditto exceeding ½lb. and not exceeding 1lb. .	1	0
Ditto exceeding 1lb. and not exceeding 2lb. .	2	0
Ditto exceeding 2lb. and not exceeding 3lb. .	3	0

and so on, increasing 1*s.* for every additional pound or fraction of a pound. Provided, however, that the following conditions be carefully observed:—1. Every such packet must be sent without a cover, or in a cover open at the ends or sides. 2. It must contain a single volume only (whether printed book, magazine, review, or pamphlet), the several sheets or parts thereof, where there are more than one, being sewed or bound together. 3. It must not exceed two feet in length, breadth, width, or depth. 4. It must have no writing or marks upon the cover, or its contents, except the name and address of the person to whom it may be sent. 5. The postage must be prepaid in full, by affixing outside the packet or its cover the proper number of stamps. If any of the above conditions be violated, the packet must be charged as a letter, and treated as such in all respects. To prevent any obstacles to the regular transmission of letters, any officer of the Post-office may delay the transmission of any such packet for a time not exceeding twenty-four hours from the time at which the same would otherwise have been forwarded by him. These instructions are not to extend to, or interfere with, the transmission of printed votes and proceedings of Parliament, or of printed papers allowed to pass by the post under the newspaper privilege, all of which will continue subject to the existing regulations.

No. 2. NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC.—The generous conduct of Lord John Russell will henceforward prevent any comicalities about hat manufacture appearing in *Punch*. Pains will also be taken to handle the Crystal Palace as delicately as possible.

[If the public will look through WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES for the last month, they may see through these panes. D. J.]

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—The first Number appeared in April, 1817. It was projected and conducted by the late Mr. William Blackwood, an eminent publisher and bookseller, and has exercised a considerable influence upon literature and politics from its first establishment to the present hour. Mr. Blackwood died at his house in Ainslie Place, Edinburgh, 16th September, 1834, and his business, with the publication of his Magazine, has since been successfully continued by his sons.

Although Mr. Lockhart, now the editor of the Quarterly Review, refused to deny that he was the editor of Blackwood's Magazine, it is perfectly well known that Blackwood himself was the editor of the periodical bearing his name.

"MONUMENTA HISTORICA BRITANNICA."—

"SIR,—Your correspondent S. R., in the last number of your 'Current Notes,' is guilty of one or two inaccurate statements in reference to the above work, which we trust you will allow us the opportunity of correcting. It is not true that the price has been *twice* reduced—it has been altered but once since its publication, from five guineas to two guineas.

"With regard to the sales of the work, we have, as its publishers, pretty correct opportunities of judging. We would only add, it is no 'failure as a mercantile speculation,' and if the sales only progress as they have hitherto done, the book will become 'out of print' in due course, and probably scarce.

"Your obedient Servants,
"THE PUBLISHERS TO THE
"PUBLIC RECORD DEPARTMENT.

"*Fleet Street, March 4th*, 1851.
"*To Mr. Willis,*
"*Publisher of 'Current Notes.'*"

Do the publishers of the "Monumenta Historica Britannica" say that the Members of Her Majesty's Government did not alter the proposed price once or twice before the book was published? They admit it was done *once* since the publication! The subject is one of so much importance, that it would require all our space to go fully into it as a national literary question.

S. R., we doubt not, if necessary, can substantiate his statements. In his communication, he appears to allude to the fact of this work, which cost the country £10,000, being sold first at five guineas, and then at two guineas; and he seems to infer that it would have been more liberal of Her Majesty's Government to have distributed copies to *all* the public libraries and to distinguished scholars. We have heard it asserted, that in this national work many monuments relating to the early history of Britain have been omitted, and it was also stated that the entire series of British coins have been overlooked. If the publishers to the Public Record Department stand forth to challenge criticism, they need

not be surprised at the disclosure of a vast amount of ignorance and jobbery.

Ingoldsby Letters, No. 2. (*Original*).—" I don't believe the story. Do you? that M ——'s trunk was opened by the authorities, in passing the frontier of the Roman States, to look after Lady Morgan's 'Italy,' which was taken out of it, and burned. If so, that book, and 'Fox's Martyrs,' are immortal. How I do wish the Pope would order my 'Legends' to be burned, and —— with them.

Of Lady Morgan and her Italy,
It was as truly said as wittily,
Freedom in writing made her no Free-trader,
For Papa's order on the way, waylaid her.

I am afraid that this is *re*ther badish."

Theodore Hook's Notes on London—*(continued).—The Corn Exchange.—Exhibition of the Society of Painters in Water Colours.—Fire in London.—Fleet Prison.—The Foundling Hospital.—The Freemasons' Hall.—Gaming House.*

Guildhall, 1834. The examination of Bankrupts no longer takes place at Guildhall. The proceedings are no longer conducted by Commissioners of Bankruptcy, as here described; a new tribunal has been established, and a new building erected for its operations in Basinghall Street.

Herald's College.—Middlesex Hospital.

East India House, 1834. The trade of the East India Company has been opened, under provisions of their new Charter, their ships have been sold, and their marine disembodied.

King's Bench Prison.

The King's Mews, 1834. The whole of the buildings here represented have been pulled down, to make way for a National Gallery. A new King's Mews has been for some time built at Pimlico.

Lambeth Palace, 1834. Lambeth Palace has been almost entirely rebuilt, at least that part which constitutes the actual residence of the Primate, under the auspices of the liberal and exemplary Dr. Howley, the present good archbishop. The designs for the alterations were made by Mr. Blore.

Lloyds'.

Leadenhall Market, 1834. The leather market here represented has been entirely removed; or if not entirely removed, has fallen into entire disuse.

Egyptian Hall, Mansion House.

House of Lords, 1834. The House of Lords, with the House of Commons, and all the offices and appurtenances, and the Speaker's house, Bellamy's, Mr. Ley's, the Chief Clerk's house in the painted chamber, the long gallery, and all, were destroyed by fire on the night of Thursday, the 16th of October, this year.

Lottery, 1834. Lotteries have been for some years abolished, but one, called the Glasgow Lottery, was drawn under a provision of an Act of Parliament, for improving that town, which had through inadvertence been smuggled into the bill. This lottery was drawn during the present year; but unless some still newer alteration takes place, no lottery will again be drawn in *moral* England.

Magdalen House.

The Mint, 1834. Since the opposite print was executed, the present Mint upon Tower Hill has been built upon a most magnificent scale.

Mounting Guard, St. James's Park.—Newgate.

Old Bailey, 1834. The Court here represented ceases to exist. It has been found necessary, in consequence of the passing of what is called the Central Court Bill, to re-construct the building, which has been done, I am told, in a manner so as most conclusively to secure the impossibility of seeing or hearing.

Opera House. The alterations which have taken place in this instance have been confined to the exterior of the building. At the time this view was taken, the Opera House was shut from the eye on three sides by houses and stables; and on the fourth, that on the Haymarket, was a naked unfinished brick front. Market-lane, a wretched place, into which the stage door and chair-door then opened, has, in the completion of Mr. Nash's designs for the improvement of the metropolis, disappeared, and is succeeded by the Colonnade. The house is now insulated, and a continuation of Charles-street into the Haymarket has afforded the opportunity of carrying the Colonnade entirely round it, while the principal front offers to the view a beautiful and classical elevation. *The Haymarket*, from which the street, in which the Opera House stands, derived its name, has been removed to the neighbourhood of the Regent's Park.

The Pantheon, 1834. This building has been pulled down and rebuilt at a vast expense, and opened as a bazaar, (a term unknown in London when this print was done).

Philanthropic Society.

Pillory, 1834.—Since the opposite print was published, every vestige of the buildings on the right hand of the street has vanished from the face of the earth, and what may perhaps be more interesting to some people, the punishment of the Pillory has been abolished.

Post Office, 1834. Since this period the Post Office which it represents has been abandoned, and a new and splendid one erected on the site of St Martin's Le Grand, after a design of Smirke, and is indeed a very beautiful building.

1834. The ordinary rate of stage coach travelling is now ten miles an hour, and the time allowed for changing horses rather under than over one minute.

Quaker's Meeting.

END OF VOLUME THE SECOND.

Curran and his Contemporaries. — Mr. Phillips, who has recorded the last note which

Curran wrote, does not appear to be correct in his dates or facts. It is dated "*Wednesday*," and Mr. Phillips states it was written on the 8th October, "at eleven o'clock at night," adding that Curran "was struck with apoplexy in two hours after," and that, on "Thursday morning," he received "with it, the mournful intelligence of what had occurred."

Curran died, at 7, Amelia Place, Brompton, on the 14th October, 1817, at the age of 68: so says Phillips.

Now, on Thursday, the 9th October, Curran dined abroad for the last time, at 14, Chapel Street, Grosvenor Place, with Mr. Richard Jones—

"— Mercutio Jones—ungrateful Jones,
Who left the stage for ever,
To manufacture orators from drones,
And make the clergy elever."

The object of the dinner was to introduce Curran to George Colman the Younger; and the party, besides the host and hostess, consisted of Mr. Harris, and Sir William Chatterton. Colman that evening was unusually brilliant, anticipating, by apt quotation, and pointed remark, almost everything that Curran would have said. One comment of Curran's, however, made a deep impression on all present. Speaking of Lord Byron's "Fare thee well, and if for ever," Curran observed that "his Lordship first weeps over his wife, and then wipes his eyes with the newspapers." He left the dinner table early, and on going upstairs to coffee, either affected not to know, or did not remember, George Colman's celebrity as a wit, and inquired of Mrs. Jones who that Mr. Colman was? Mr. Harris joined them at this moment, and apologized for his friend Colman engrossing so much of the conversation to himself, adding that he was the spoiled child of society, and that even the Regent listened with attention when George Colman talked. "Ay," said Curran, with a melancholy smile, "I now know who Colman is; we must soon both sleep in the same bed."

The next morning Curran was seized with apoplexy. His age has been variously stated at sixty-seven, sixty-eight, and seventy.

7, Amelia Place, as it appeared in 1845; the residence of a stone mason. A shop has been recently run out in front, which bears the name Boston, with ticketed linen-drapery in the windows.

Monument to the Poet Bowles.—A tablet to the memory of this admirable poet and truly excellent man, has recently been erected in the aisle of the south-east transept of Salisbury Cathedral. The following is the inscription:—

"The Rev. William Lisle Bowles, M.A., Canon of this Cathedral, many years Rector of Bremhill, in this county, and Rector of Dumbleton, in the county of Gloucester, a Poet, Critic and Divine, died on the 7th of April, 1850, in the 88th year of his age. His wife, Magdalene, daughter of the Rev. Chas. Wake, D.D., Rector of Knoyle Magna, in this county, died without issue on the 7th of May, 1844. The remains of both are interred near this tablet, erected by their kindred as a tribute of respect to departed worth, of which the writings of the Poet afford a more interesting and unimpeachable memorial."

Hogarth's Tomb at Chiswick.

To the Editor of the Illustrated London News.

Torrington-place, London, March 3, 1851.

On seeing the notice of Hogarth's tomb in your number, I immediately wrote to my friend Adamson, builder, of Turnham-green, and requested him to make a survey; his report entirely corroborates your correspondent's statement, and goes on to the suggestion of a necessary repair, involving a somewhat considerable outlay. He says that "nothing short of taking it down and entirely re-erecting it, will save it from ruin."

The mischief has arisen from a grave on one side of it giving way, and other sinkings of the earth incidental to churchyards.

In the year 1832, I paid Mr. Adamson £11. 14*s*. for extensive repairs done to the tomb; but circumstances have subsequently placed me in a position not to be able to sustain the charge now necessary. If, therefore, by means of your extensive power of communication, the wealthy admirers of genius could be induced to contribute the necessary funds, I shall be happy to undertake the stewardship, and carry out the work.

As regards the remarks respecting the residence, I find, on looking over the leases of some of the grounds thereto annexed, that the information has not been quite correct; but that is of little importance.

Mrs. Lewis, buried in the Chiswick vault, (Mrs. Hogarth's niece, who passed all her life in Mr. Hogarth's family, and acted as his confidential shop-woman, and whose portrait is in my possession, painted by Mr. Hogarth, and inscribed by him in his own handwriting and signature on the back of the canvas), told me, speaking of the history of our family, that Mr. Hogarth's parents were in poor circumstances: his father, I think, was a printer, or in some way connected with the press; and himself was apprenticed to a herald and general engraver, in Cranbourn-alley.

Lady Thornhill was my grandmother's sister (she is buried in the Chiswick vault), and Mr. Hogarth

married her daughter, Miss Thornhill, the only issue of their marriage (John Thornhill being a natural son), who survived Mr. Hogarth twenty-five years.

Mrs. Lewis died in the year 1808, and is buried in the vault; she was the daughter of the celebrated David Lewis, harper to George II. She had a brother, John Lewis, who married into the Clitheroe family, of Brentford. His portrait (and an excellent likeness it is—I remember him very well) is introduced by Mr. Hogarth into one of the paintings "Marriage à la Mode," in the National Gallery, playing on the flute, on which instrument he was an excellent performer.

Mary Lewis died a spinster; and I believe my sister (who is my housekeeper) and myself are the only living remains of anything connected with Hogarth. Mrs. Ann Hogarth, sister to William Hogarth, died a spinster, and is buried in the Chiswick vault.

The remnant and relics of Mr. Hogarth's property came into the possession of Mr. Hast, my uncle by marriage (who had the honour of serving George IV. for forty-five years). When he died (in 1823), he was Chief Clerk in the office of the Duchy of Cornwall, and Second Clerk of his Majesty's Kitchen; and through him many family portraits and other matters came into my possession.

In the "Beauties of England and Wales," I find a connexion mentioned between Mr. Hogarth and the family of Hoggerd, who were tenants of Shap Abbey, in Westmoreland, at the time of the Dissolution; but I never heard it alluded to in our family.

I am, &c.

JOHN PHILLIPS.

SHAKSPERE'S HOUSE. — It is stated that Mr. Macready has by his exertions completed the sum necessary for the purchase of Shakspere's House. The want of this sum has been termed "a national disgrace," but when it is considered that it was purchased for £3000, and that the public have subscribed considerably over £4000, the blame is clearly not with them. The statement of accounts from the Audit Office, where they have been so long delayed, is the only thing to make all clear.

NELL GWYNNE.—The Illustrated London News of 8th March, in describing the Army and Navy Club House, Pall Mall, says, "Amongst the houses pulled down to clear the new site was that of Lord de Mauley; and, with other objects of art and interest bought with the house, may be mentioned the looking-glass of Nell Gwynne, which now, in the New Club House, occupies a conspicuous position in the visitors' dining room."

CHESTER ARCHÆOLOGICAL ASSOCIATION—(*concluded.*)—Archdeacon Wood's paper on the probability that Kinderton near Middlewich is the Condate of the Roman Itineraries, is clearly and beautifully written. "Roman Antiquities," he observes, "form a very important branch of Archæological study and research. To trace the footsteps of the mighty conquerors of the world throughout our land—to mark the monuments of their former power and grandeur—to observe the evidences of their indomitable energy—and to bring to light those scattered fragments of their works which evince their advancement in all the arts, the refinements, and the luxuries of civilized life, afford us at once both interest and instruction.

"It was on the evening of the 26th August in the 55 before the Christian era, that C. Julius Cæsar first landed on the shores of Britain at Richborough in Kent, and it was about the middle of the fifth century, (A.D. 446) *i. e.* about 400 years afterwards, in the reign of Theodosius II. or Valentinian III. that the Romans finally abandoned the country.

"Ambition, the lust of power, and cupidity, were the ruling motives to the Roman Conquest; while the personal valour, the unabating energy, and the untiring diligence with which they pursued any object of attainment, were the means which (under the secret council of God) rendered the Romans the masters of the then known world.

"These characteristics of the ancient Romans are very discernible in those remains of their works which now exist. Wherever the Romans trod they left the indelible marks of their having been there.

"The Romans in their several invasions of Britain secured every advance into the country, from their first encampment at Richborough, by a station and a garrison proportioned to the circumstances of the place. These stations were connected together by military ways, formed at an incalculable amount of labour, in making which they compelled the vanquished to toil, wearing them out by vigorous service; and although the science of the engineer was but then in its infancy, yet no difficulties seem to have daunted them or to have proved insurmountable; the mountain pass, the secluded valley, the rough moorland and the marshy fen, as well as the open champaign, were alike traversed by the roads of the conquerors, and thus a communication was sustained between every part of the country.

"The Roman Itineraries are still extant, marking the roads from the Roman Wall to Richborough, and extending over the entire breadth of the island; evidences of the methodical system of Roman aggression, and constituting a welcome guide to the antiquary. One of the stations mentioned in these Itineraries as situated about 20 miles from Chester is "*Condate*," the site of which has long been disputed, and consequently it becomes a matter of local interest to determine its position. I have therefore," modestly adds the Archdeacon, "ventured to bring the subject forward, not in the spirit of a controversialist, con-

tending for a favourite theory, but with the desire of ascertaining the true situation of the place."

A Rembrandt-like etching, by Mr. Ayrton, of the Interior of the Norman vaulted chambers lately opened near the Cloisters in Chester Cathedral is the frontispiece to this interesting volume, which beside is abundantly illustrated, and we hope will be sold to the public. A.

Roman Remains at Verulam.—A writer in the *Morning Post*, of February 12th, states that when the Roman Theatre was discovered at Verulam, an urgent letter was sent to Lord John Russell, pleading for a little money to save the unique and grand remains from destruction, but the letter received no answer. The theatre was ultimately destroyed. The grant of 61,000 francs, by the French government, to restore the amphitheatre of Arles (*see Current Notes for February*), does indeed, as the writer observes, contrast strongly with the apathy exhibited in our own country, which is doubly doomed, having a Government which does not recognize ancient national monuments, and numerous Archæological Societies, which talk and squabble a great deal, and do very little.

The National Antiquities in the British Museum.—"It is indisputable that the departments of Ethnography and Antiquities, in the British Museum, are arranged almost without any attempt at systematic classification. The present popular idea of a museum, in this country, differs, indeed, in no degree, from the estimate of an exhibition of giants and dwarfs, or any other vulgar show."—*The Archæology and Pre-historic Annals of Scotland*, by Daniel Wilson. Edinburgh and London, 1851.

Obsolete Punishments.—The *Leicester Chronicle* reports at full length Mr. Kelly's paper on the Ancient Records of Leicester, delivered before the Literary Society of that town. It includes some very curious particulars relating to the cucking-stool, the scolding-cart, the branks, the pillory, the cage, the stocks, and the whipping-post. The scolding-cart is not mentioned by Brand. It was like the cucking-stool, but in addition to the appointments of that tranquillizing engine, was furnished with wheels. Few specimens of the branks are known. One is said to be preserved at Walton-on-Thames, and inscribed—

> "Chester presents Walton with a bridle,
> To curb women's tongues that talk too idle."

Under the head of Witchcraft, Mr. Kelly gives some frightful insights into the state of mental disease which pervaded England in the 16th and 17th centuries, *ex. gr.*

"Item, paid for the charge of meate and drincke, of old Mother Cooke, being kept in the Hall v dayes, at the suit of Mr. Edward Saunders, upon suspicion of witchrye, who was afterwards removed to the county gaiole, and was for the same arrayned, condemned, and hanged . . . ij*s.* v*d.*"

Monsieur Leopold Delisle, of Valognes, in Normandy, a young antiquary who, in more than one instance, has signalized himself in the department of the national archives, a few days since discovered a fragment of a *Great Roll of the Exchequer of Normandy*, relating to the first half of the twelfth century. The Society of Antiquaries of Normandy will print this fragment, which has been communicated to them by M. Delisle, together with the Norman Rolls published by the Society of Antiquaries of London. M. Leopold Delisle has received an appointment from the French Government to assist in the arrangement and publication of the national archives. S. R.

The Royal Literary Fund.—The Annual General Meeting of this Corporation was held on the 12th March, Sir Robert H. Inglis, Bart., M.P., in the chair, when Sir Henry Ellis, and John Pepys, Esq., were elected Vice-Presidents; The Hon. Mountstuart Elphinstone, Rev. Dr. Croly, Charles Dickens, Esq., and Mr. Justice Talfourd, Members of the Council; Joseph Gwilt, Esq., Auditor; and Robert Bell, Esq., Dr. Beattie, George Godwin, Esq., and Lord Londesborough, Members of the General Committee.

This noble charity, established in 1790, for the relief of authors of genius and learning, and their families, who may be in want or distress, since the period of its institution, has distributed in such relief, to the close of last year, no less a sum than £38,900. And so delicately has this relief been administered, that the name of the recipient never transpires to the public.

Percy Society.—We learn that the completion of Mr. Wright's Chaucer, by the publication of the 3rd volume, has considerably augmented the number of members of this society.

Poetry "looking up in the market."—The two following advertisements appear in the Supplement to the *Times* of Tuesday, March 11, third column:—

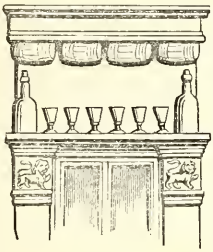
"Wanted, an Amanuensis, of a poetic turn of mind and good education, by a gentleman of literary habits. Terms moderate at the commencement, increased when merited, with or without board and lodging. Letters, prepaid, to be addressed," &c.

"Wanted, by a large business firm in London, a Person to write prose and poetical advertisements: one who has been accustomed to it will be preferred. A liberal salary will be given. Apply, in the first instance, by letter, enclosing specimen of abilities, to," &c.

A Son older than his Father.—Lord Gough

was presented with the honorary degree of LL.D. in Trinity College, Dublin, on Shrove Tuesday. The College Professorship, held by Dr. Anster, imposes on him the duty of presenting persons taking degrees at the University Commencements; and on the 4th of March he found himself following the old form of phraseology, and styling Lord Gough "*huncce filium meum.*" T. C. C.

THE ROYAL ACADEMY AND ITS PRESIDENT.—Sir Charles Eastlake has been dubbed K.G.L. since his reply to an observation made by his Excellency M. Van der Weyer, at the memorably got-up Macready "banquet" (March 1), when the President of the Royal Academy is reported to have said, that he "agreed in his Excellency's recommendation that the Architectural Scenery of the Stage should be transferred to our streets." (*Hear.*)—And here is an actual example of Sir Charles Eastlake's proposed pantomimic, pictorial and public house style of architecture: "in *Re*" THE GOLDEN LION. And so, by universal consent, the order was forthwith conferred on the worthy knight by one of his facetious companions.



"The Builder" may possibly endeavour to put a different construction on the matter. But your correspondent considers the decoration as a very appropiate one for an after dinner speech, when a man's mind had been elevated by half a dozen glasses of bad tavern wine.

JAMES PRIOR.—Author of the Life of Burke, Goldsmith, &c. Is his crest an escallop shell? E. N.

It is, and *St.* (or Saint) not *Sir*, the jocular prefix to his name. Among his friends Mr. Prior has long been known as Saint James or St. Jago de Compostella—an escallop shell being the especial badge of pilgrims to the shrine of that Saint. No *Examiner* can *Burke* the question respecting *Priority* of claim as a Pilgrim to the Shrine of Goldsmith.

DR. MAGINN.—This wit and scholar wrote to one of his pupils to enquire after a missing Lexicon, as follows:—"Dowden!!! Schleusner? Maginn—." which he expounded

> "Dowden, my thrice admired;
> Query, have you Schleusner?
> I, Maginn am minus of it." R. D. R.

"STOP THIEF."—"*The Sixth Sense* (and the one the most uncommon)? Common sense."—*Punch*, March 15.

"What must strike a stranger most in a visit to this country, if he happen to preserve his own senses, is the utter deficiency of that useful quality, common sense, in the inhabitants."—*Lady Chatterton's Rambles in the South of Ireland*, Vol. 1, p. 19.

FACTS IN NATURAL HISTORY.—"We have in England no tortoises or turtles."—*Household Words*, 8th March.

But in "Bell's *British* Reptiles," (p. 1, to 16) we have turtles. And Aldermen eat them, too; although literary men may be ignorant of the fact.

"There are four species of newts."—*Household Words.*

Bell gives three true species, considering one as but a variety, and offering good proof of it in his last three pages.

In other respects, the paper in "Household Words" is an exact list of the species of British Reptiles, as arranged by Bell, very amusingly told, and very cleverly abridged. T. F. D. C.

ARCHBISHOP LAUD'S MS.—Messrs. Puttick and Simpson sold, during the past month, an unpublished work by the celebrated Archbishop Laud on Church Government, the apostolical descent, and other similar matters. The MS. has been preserved in the Woodford family for two centuries, and is written in the Archbishop's nervous and forcible style. It was purchased by Mr. Halliwell for the moderate sum of £21. We should think that an edition of this MS. could not fail of having a large circulation amongst the High Church party.

CANNING—MOORE—JEFFREY.—Leman Rede's Memoirs of Canning profess to contain all his poetical attempts, but the lines referred to by your correspondent are not found there. However, this is imperfect evidence for a negative, since the above-named memoir was published but a few months after Mr. C.'s death. A complete account of all the provocations which ended in the duel may be found there. The only additional particulars relating to that event, which I know of, may be found in the "Examiner" for last July (circiter), contained in a letter from Mr. W. Savage Landor, denying a charge made in the "Quarterly" of April before, that he had called Canning a scamp.

The date of Moore and Jeffrey's duel may be found in one of "Chambers's Papers for the People." I do not copy it, in order that your subscriber may spend three-halfpence over the tract I refer him to: the money will be well invested. Y. S. N.

LONGEVITY.—Statements of this kind must be received with caution. The announcement under the head of "Deaths" in the *Morning Herald* of 28th February, gives the age of Deen Mahomet, at 102. His baths at Brighton are well known,

and his death many will be surprised to see chronicled in our Literary and Scientific Obituary. If we are to believe his own statement, the *Morning Herald* has added ten years to the advanced period of life which he certainly did reach. The travels of "Deen Mahomet," in a series of letters written by himself to a friend, appeared in 2 vols. 12mo. printed at Cork in 1794. In this work (p. 5.) he distinctly says, "I was born in the year 1759 in Patna, a famous city on the north of the Ganges," &c. These volumes contain an amusing picture of Indian life, and some graphic sketches of British enterprise and valour. In 1784, Deen Mahomet arrived at Dartmouth and accompanied Captain Baker (the military fortunes of whose brother he had followed from ten years of age) to Cork, where he was placed at school to learn English. Mirza Abu Taleb Khan in his Travels, mentions him in 1799 as "a remarkable person" in the family of Captain Baker at Cork. While at school, Deen Mahomet induced a pretty Irish girl of respectable parentage to elope with him, and ultimately they established themselves at Brighton.

Although a list of upwards of 300 subscribers, besides one for 100 and another for 20 sets of the work is prefixed to Deen Mahomet's Travels, we have never seen more than one copy of these volumes. Among the subscribers' names those of Thomas Addis Emmett, Esq. and Henry Shears, Esq. occur; and the work itself has escaped the research of the laborious Dr. Watt in his "Bibliotheca Britannica."

Monograms.—R. P. considers that engraved in our *Current Notes for last month* to be composed of the letters I. D., and not L. I. C., adding "the letter taken for a L in my opinion wants a top to complete that letter, whereas the L and C as your correspondent takes them to be, are evidently joined together, and form a perfect D. These may be the Christian name and initial of title, or Christian name and surname of some Earl, but unless it was explained where they occur, the mystery is difficult, indeed almost impossible, to unravel."

Having referred this communication to our Correspondent C., he says, "the Monogram may be found upon a leaden cistern at the back of an old mansion called Arundel House, in the road to Fulham, not far from what an Irishman would term the iron "three-mile-stone." The house was, in 1819, the residence of Mr. Hallam, the Historian of the Middle Ages.

Belzoni.—"The story of this remarkable man, as told in Dickens's "Household Words," of the 1st of March, wild and wonderful as it seems, is, generally speaking, correct enough, and in proof of this, I inclose you a bill of his performances when at Cork. At first sight not the least curious part of this bill appears to be the prices charged for admission; but when it was issued, the currency of Ireland was decimal, so that five ten-penny and one five-penny token, was the charge for the Boxes; three ten and one five-penny "pieces" the charge for the Pit; and two tenpenny "bits," as they were called, that for admission to the Gallery."

Theatre, Patrick Street.

CUT

A Man's Head

OFF!!!

And put it On Again!

This present Evening, Monday, Feb. 24, 1812,

And positively and Definitively the Last Night.

Sig. Belzoni

Respectfully acquaints the Public, that by the request of his Friends, he will Re-open the above *Theatre* for one Night more—*i.e.* on Monday, Feb. 24, and although it has been announced in former *Advertisements*, that he would perform for Two Nights—he pledges his word that this present Evening, will be positively and definitively the last night of his Re-presentations, and when he will introduce a Feat of Legerdemain, which he flatters himself will astonish the Spectators, as such a feat was never attempted in Great Britain or Ireland. After a number of Entertainments he will

CUT

A Man's Head off!!

And put it On Again!!!

also the

GRAND CASCADE.

Sig. Belzoni takes this opportunity to return his most sincere thanks to the Public, and assures them that no trouble or expense will be spared for the gratification of a generous Public.

*** Tickets to be had of Mr. Castelli, Looking Glass Warehouse, near the Theatre, Patrick-Street, and of Mr. Connor, Printer, Grand Parade.

Doors to be open at half-past Six, and to begin at Seven o'Clock.

Admission—*Boxes*, 4*s.* 7*d.*—*Pit*, 2*s.* 11*d.*—*Gal.* 1*s.* 8*d.*

"I remember," writes our correspondent, "meeting Belzoni, the last day, I think, of the year 1821, at the late Mr. Murray's, in Albemarle Street, where we saw the New Year in, and "glorious John" brew a special bowl of Punch for the occasion.

"Beside the juvenile family of our host, the whole D'Israeli family were present. We all played a merry game of Pope Joan, and when that was over, Murray presented to each a pocket-book as a New Year's gift. While Murray was engaged at a side table in making the punch, upon tasting the excellence of which he uttered something like the sounds made by a puppet show-man, when about to collect an audience, the elder D'Israeli took up my

pocket-book, and wrote with his pencil the following impromptu :—

"Gigantic Belzoni, at Pope Joan and tea
What a group of mere puppets we seem beside thee ;
Which our kind host perceiving with infinite zest,
Gives us *Punch* at our supper to keep up the jest."

"Indifferent as the epigram itself was, I smiled at it, and observed, 'very true—excellent.' Which Belzoni perceiving, said—'Will you permit me to partake of your enjoyment?' 'Certainly,' I replied, handing him the book. Never shall I forget his countenance after he had read the four lines—he read the last line twice over, and then his eyes actually flashed fire—he struck his forehead, and muttering, 'I am betrayed'—abruptly left the room.

"We were all perfectly astonished, and quite unable to understand such conduct—but before any one could follow, he had furiously banged the hall door after him. How could 'my nonsensical lines,' as Mr. D'Israeli called them, 'have produced so much evident pain? Or had Belzoni suddenly become deranged?' The latter was the very painful conclusion; and I undertook to trace or follow him, which I soon did to his lodgings, where I communicated my suspicions to his landlady.

"The next morning—or indeed the same morning, as this occurred immediately after midnight, Belzoni called upon me before I was out of bed, and requested to see my pocket-book again, as 'what that man—that man who knows every thing—had written there last night, disturbed him so much, that he could not sleep, and he could never enter the doors of Mr. Murray's house again, where he had been insulted and disgraced.' I perfectly remember Belzoni's words: 'Oh,' said he, violently, 'I could cut his head off'—at the same time drawing his right hand across his throat, and with the left, handing me the very bill which I inclose.—'To write it down too, in that cursed book of yours, that I, Giovanni Belzoni, *Esquire*, was a puppet show-man—a vagabond, who amused children in the streets with Punch?'

"'Mr. Belzoni,' said I, handing him the unlucky pocket-book—'you certainly misunderstand Mr. D'Israeli's 'nonsensical verses.' Tear them out if you please, or destroy the book altogether. The kind and simple-hearted D'Israeli is more innocent of any intentional affront at this moment, than I am of any wish to hurt your feelings. You have my permission to destroy the book'—which Belzoni instantly availed himself of by flinging it into the fire; and when he saw that it was perfectly consumed, putting out his hand to me, he said, 'Now will you go with me to Murray's, and tell him *all?*'

"I need scarcely add, that I did so, and then for the first time did 'glorious John,' know the fact, that Belzoni, the Egyptian traveller, had been an itinerant mountebank.

"A portrait of Belzoni, which is an excellent likeness, appeared in the 'European Magazine,' for August, 1822, prefixed to a Memoir of 'Giovanni Belzoni, Esq.'

"You can make what use you please of this communication, which is perhaps not worthy of occupying a place in 'Household Words.'"

T. C. C.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Baillie, Joanna, Miss, born in Bothwell Manse, near Glasgow, Poet and Dramatist, aged nearly 90. Hampstead, 23rd February.

Griffiths, Louisa, Mrs., Traveller, Grosvenor Street. 2nd February.

Haynes, Joseph, born in Cork, Dramatist, and an Editor of the Morning Herald, aged 64. Norwood, 24th January.

Mahomet, Sake, Dean or Deen, born in Patna, 1759, Traveller and Shampooer, aged 92 (not 102). Brighton, 24th February.

Melly, ——, Entomologist. Gega, Egypt, 19th January.

Taylor, George, Political Economist, Critical, Satirical, and Biographical writer, aged 79. Witton Hall, Durham, 2nd January.

Wilmot, John, President of the Market Gardeners' Society, aged 73. Union Hotel, Cockspur Street, 2nd January.

Corrections of January Number.

F. R. A. is thanked for his communication of the 28th ultimo. "Errors and confusion in dates and Nos. should" and will "be guarded against." Those pointed out in No. 1. appear to be printer's errors, which, as two of them refer to that figure, may be pardoned as consequent upon a first undertaking. The other two will be corrected by the substitution of *Vol.* for *No.* and then the precise chronology of the Fraser, Berkeley, and Maginn affair, as given in No. I., may be thus arranged :—

Fraser's Magazine commenced, .	February, 1830.
Article on "Mr. Grantley Berkeley and his Novels, Vol. (*not No.*) XIV. p. 242	August, 1836.
Mr. Fraser assaulted .	3rd August.
Duel between Mr. Grantley Berkeley and Dr. Maginn (*date not stated*)	5th August
After which, as legal proceedings were pending, a perfect silence was maintained.	
Trial in consequence of the assault	3rd December.
Dr. Maginn's defence of his conduct appeared in the XV. Vol. (*which by a printer's error stands XIV.*) of Fraser's Magazine, but the reference to p. 137 is correct.	January 1837.

It therefore did seem, as our Correspondent shrewdly observes, that "Dr. Maginn's *defence* appeared to have been printed *before* the *offensive article*."

In the notice of Dr. Neligan's sale, the number of the lot purchased by Lord Cadogan, No. 112, a lamp, is correctly stated. That of the bust of Diana should have been No 111, and not 112.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. IV.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [APRIL, 1851.

BLACKWOOD'S MAGAZINE.—*Continued.*

As specimens of the influence of Blackwood's Magazine, and the manner in which he conducted it, we give the two following extracts from a bundle of his letters which a contributor has forwarded to us, with permission to make what use we please of them.

"11*th June*, 1824.

"I am very anxious to see the pamphlet which you mention, and your commentary on it. Cadell has not said any thing about it to me, but I should think you are right in your conjecture. In a letter from him the other day, he says, 'In confidence I have to inform you that the Archbishop of Dublin, in a letter lately received, thus expresses himself:—*If you can put your friend* BLACKWOOD *in possession of the fact, that the Papists here have, in the person of* O'CONNELL (*their chief demagogue*), *pointed at the Archbishop of Dublin as an object for* ASSASSINATION, *he may make a good use of it for the public advantage. Both the papers sent herewith it might be well to send to Blackwood, and promptly.*'"

7*th March*, 1825.

"On Saturday I received your letter with the article on Lord John Russell. I am very sorry that I must return it to you, as I know it will do no good to Maga, and I find it would mortally offend at least one of my best friends, and one whom I chiefly depend upon.

"We do not agree about 'Sayings and Doings,' as I cannot help wondering at your again mentioning the introduction of Hook's name, when this was done by yourself throughout the whole of your article, and has been done in all the critiques upon the book in every periodical in the kingdom. That he cares for this, no one can be so stupid as to believe, but it is surely a very different matter with the public mention of the name of a shy retiring lady, who is unknown to the world and wishes to remain so. I cannot help my stupidity in still thinking that the article we had printed before I received yours is the most useful one of the two, both for Maga and the book itself; and moreover, however much it is my interest to conciliate Hook, I hardly think if you had been upon the spot, that you would have advised me to print a second article in my March No. He personally has surely no cause to complain of the way he has been treated in my Magazine, as we had a personal defence of him before, and this he has not had in any other periodical.

"Your opinion of the American writers differs from my own as well as that of almost all my friends both here and in London. From every thing I have heard, I believe that there are not many articles I have had which have done so much for Maga as those of this writer. He is a singular person certainly, but no one can read his articles without seeing that he is a person of power and originality. I know nothing of him personally, but I can say confidently, that in all the correspondence I have had with him, he has acted like a gentleman, and one who is most anxious to promote my interests. It was an article by another contributor which appeared in No. 96, which your friend Mr. Walter, I believe, rejected. I dare say he may have rejected articles written by this person, but his series on the American writers he began, altered, extended, and enlarged at my suggestion, after I had got one or two of his other articles. By the bye, so much did Mr. Walter think of that on the American President, that he asked my permission, through his publisher here, to reprint it in his Review.

"Taylor's Magazine is beneath all contempt. It is going to the dogs as fast as your friend ——— and other worthies can drive it. I wonder you had not seen his last No. His attacks on my Magazine are stupid, as might be expected.

"I am happy to tell you that my Magazine is rising as well as Colburn's. I have never spared expense or trouble, and I do not despair of getting a good deal a-head of him yet, if I am not so already. I need hardly repeat what I have already told you, that with you in London giving me your friendly, serious, and zealous aid, I feel confident that my Magazine might be made a very different thing from what it has yet been. In the state to which I have now got my Magazine, it requires a constant exertion and watching over."

As the letters of Mr. Blackwood contain much literary information connected with the history of his Magazine, which perhaps stands at the head of the monthly periodicals of England—we shall probably return to them.

THEODORE HOOK'S NOTES ON LONDON. (*Concluded.*)

The Queen's Palace, 1834. The palace here shewn exists no longer. Upon its site exists the New Palace, built after designs of Mr. Nash, a man to whom London is more indebted for its splendid improvements than any other architect on record. The New Palace has been subjected to much criticism, and the completion of it confided to Mr. Blore. I suspect, when time shall have overcome prejudice and jealousy, it will be duly appreciated.

The Royal Exchange, 1834. Since the publication of this work, the Tower of the Exchange has been pulled down and rebuilt.

Royal Institution.—Sadler's Wells.—Society of Agriculture.

Somerset House, 1834. Since this plate was published, the unfinished wing of Somerset House has been completed, and a new range of buildings erected, in which is established a new institution called "King's College."

The Stamp Office.—The Stock Exchange.

St. James's Palace, 1834. Since this plate was published, the principal part of St. James's Palace has been burned down: the state rooms are almost all newly arranged and principally rebuilt.

St. Luke's Hospital.— St. Margaret's Church, Westminster.

St. Martin's in the Fields, 1834. Since this was published, all the narrow courts and alleys by which the beautiful church was encumbered have been removed, and, thanks to the genius and activity of Mr. Nash, the splendid building stands clear and isolated to the view.

St. Paul's Cathedral.—The Synagogue.—Tattersall's Repository.— The Temple.—The Tower of London.

Horse Armoury, Tower, 1834. The whole collection has been removed, re-arranged, and the figures placed in chronological order, in a new building, under the direction of Dr. Meyrick.

The Board of Trade.—Trinity House.

Watch House, 1834. In these days there are *no* watch houses, *no* watchmen. That admirable body, the police force, has superseded the drones so well depicted in the opposite plate. The watchman was always known to be safe in his box till he went forth to cry the hour, and then by the noise he made it was perfectly easy to know where he was, and therefore to be where he was not. To Sir Robert Peel we are indebted for the establishment of an efficient police, and to Colonel Rowan for his admirable management of it.

The West India Docks.—Westminster Abbey.

Westminster Hall.—Since this was published, the new Courts of Law and Equity have been built, and the unsightly wooden buildings which face the spectator in the annexed view have been removed, as have also been the disfiguring modern lamps or lamp irons. 1836.

Since this book was published, it has become a custom to abridge the splendour of coronations in this particular [the feast]. The magnificent coronation feast of King George the Fourth was the last, as far as my lifetime goes, or is likely to go. King William the Fourth had no banquet; neither had his niece and successor, Queen Victoria.

Whitehall Chapel.

The Workhouse, St. James's Parish, 1834.—Since this was published, the Poor Laws *Amendment* Bill has overturned the whole system of parochial relief, has disturbed all the best arrangements for the poor, and rendered everybody connected with the subject (always excepting the paid Commissioners) discontented and dissatisfied.

Greenwich Hospital.—Since this print was published, the entire of this hall has undergone a complete change. The windows have been closed up, and their space covered by a magnificent collection of pictures, partly original and partly copies, consisting of portraits of our most eminent Admirals, and representations of our most celebrated naval victories. The improvement effected by the alteration is great and unquestionable.

Chelsea Hospital.—The Royal Military Asylum at Chelsea.—Covent Garden New Theatre.—South Sea House.—The Excise Office.—The Thames."

Vol. III. Finis.

Green Sleeves.—C. H. inquires if we can assist him to a copy of the words of the old ballad of "Green Sleeves."

The words of the song are given in Mr. Fairholt's songs on Costume, published by the Percy Society, No. LXXXI. March, 1849; where, however, it is entitled "*A New* Courtly Sonet, of the Lady Greensleeves," from a copy printed in 1584. And this has led to the belief that there was an older popular song known by the same name, of which perhaps only the burden is preserved:—

> "Greensleeves was all my joy,
> Greensleeves was my delight,
> Greensleeves was my hart of gold;
> And who but Lady Greensleeves."

The tune is said to have been recovered by Sir John Hawkins, (Appendix No. 21), and may also be found in Chappell's Old English Melodies. It was a dancing tune in Prior's time.—*Alma*, Canto 2nd.

Ben Jonson jocularly mentions "My Lord Mayor's green Women!"—and Nares may be consulted on the subject. S. O.

Shakspere's House Mangled.—A Correspondent writes with reference to the last number of Current Notes as follows:—

"This affair, as it appears in your Notes for March, and the 'Art Journal,' reminds me of a mangle, for which I was once solicited to subscribe as an act of charity. It was stated that twelve pounds would enable an industrious poor woman to procure one, set up in business as a washerwoman, and live comfortably by the employment. As I saw a long list of charitable names, before subscribing, I felt inclined to add up the amount of benefactions, and save the poor industrious creature from any further degradation by beggary. But judge my surprise at finding that the amount subscribed to promote her industry in begging was exactly £29. 14*s.* 6*d.* —more than double the sum required to effect it otherwise."

Now this is a case in point, with the Shakspere House affair, about which there can be no mistake, as gentlemen are concerned. I find by my banker's book that I paid Mr. Pettigrew, of Saville-row, on the 28th September, 1847 (by check, No. 49), on the Union Bank of London, seven guineas, as three subscriptions towards the purchase of Shakspere's House, for which neither myself nor the other parties who paid me their subscriptions have ever seen or received an acknowledgment, although my check appears to have been paid in on the 8th October following (1847), through the London and Westminster Bank.

In all money matters it is due to be perfectly explicit, and so I inclose you my card to hand to any one requiring information respecting this statement.

T. C. C.

2nd April, 1851.

Queen Elizabeth's Character in tent Stitch.—"A short and sweet Sonnet made by one of the Maides of Honor upon the death of Queen Elizabeth, which she sowed uppon a sampler in red silke."

To a new tune, &c. Phillida flouts me.

Gone is Elizabeth,
Whom we have lov'd so deare;
She our kind Mistres was
Full four and forty yeare.
England she govern'd well,
Not to be blamed;
Flanders she govern'd well,
And Ireland tamed.

France she befrended;
Spain she hath foiled,
Papists rejected,
And the Pope spoyled.
To Princes powerfull,
To the World vertuous,
To her Foes mercifull,
To subjects gracious.
Her soule is in Heaven;
The world keeps her glory,
Subjects her good deeds—
And so ends my story.

R. J. S.

The Society of Antiquaries has celebrated the hundredth year of its existence. Matured by age, it is now to be hoped that the Society will reflect deliberately on its uselessness during a past century; and that it will endeavour to do something to retrieve its Antiquarian character. There is much to be done, certainly, but we fear that the persons generally put into office to do it are not selected with a sufficient regard to their zeal, knowledge, or character.

Pope Joan.—We have had several letters on this subject, from which the two following selections are all that we have space for:—

"Pope Joan is placed by those who advocate her existence between Leo IV. and Benedict III. or in the years 853 to 855. The records of this period, which we have been told are preserved in the Archives of the Vatican, would clear up the fact to some degree by showing, at least, if there were really so long a period between the decease of one of these Popes and the accession of the other, and the Catholics themselves would very probably gain their own point by an examination of them. But we fear the Romish Church is no encourager of historical researches, the results of which seldom turn to its advantage."

T. W.

"There is, however, nothing indelicate in the game o Pope Joan, as mentioned by your correspondent T. C. C. in the *Current Notes* of last month, p. 24. It is, or at least was, a common child's game in 1816, when I remember to have purchased for a child's party a 'Pope Joan board,' then a toy, commonly sold in all toy shops."

I. R.

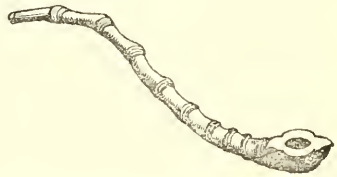
Pope's "Man of Ross."—Mr. Kyrle is stated to have usually worn a ring with a peculiar device. It was a small ruby set in gold; but on touching the point of the stone, it opened, and emitted the head of a snake hissing, with its tongue out. In 1799, this interesting relic was in the possession of Mrs. Flack, then residing at Bath. Can any of G. W's correspondents inform a subscriber to *Current Notes*, of the further history of Mr. Kyrle's ring, or who is the present possessor of it?

U.

The White Lion.—"A neat box" on the right hand side of the old road from Ross to Monmouth, within about a mile of the latter town, which had been a public-house and the sign a White Lion, has long been called "The Curled Cat," in compliment to the painter's *talents*.

C. H.

Tobacco Pipes.—When the Golden Lion Inn, at Fulham, was pulled down, in April, 1836, a tobacco pipe of ancient and foreign fashion was found behind the old wainscot.



The stem was a crooked shoot of bamboo, through which a hole had been bored, and a brass ornamental termination (of Elizabethan pattern) formed the head of this pipe. I inclose a sketch of this relic.

T. M.

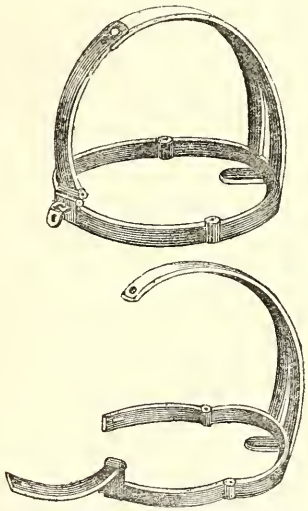
Graphic Relics.—On the 26th March last, Messrs. Christie and Manson sold, among other property of the late President of the Royal Academy. Lot 181, "A mahogany arm chair, covered with leather—formerly Sir Joshua Reynolds's, and subsequently Sir Thomas Lawrence's." And Lot 182, "A mahogany palette, formerly the property of Sir J. Reynolds, and presented to Sir M. A. Shee by J. M. W. Turner, Esq. R.A."

Obsolete Punishments.—A view of the Bishops' *Branks* is given in the Abbotsford edition of *The Monastery*, and Mr. D. Wilson has figured, in his *Archæology of Scotland*, another example, which was found in 1848 behind the oak panelling in one

of the rooms of the ancient mansion of the Earls of Moray. He has given some curious particulars of this instrument and also of the *Witch's Branks* or *Bridle*, preserved some few years ago in the old steeple at Forfar, and "described in the Old Statistical Account of the parish of Forfar, as the bridle with which the wretched victims of superstition were led to execution." An engraving of the horrible relic (which bears the date of 1661), illustrates Mr. Wilson's account. C. R.

Scold's Bridle.—The one preserved in Walton Church and mentioned in your *Notes*, is much corroded, and the inscription cannot now be read, some few indications of letters alone remaining.

F. W. F.



It is figured in Brayley and Britton's History of Surrey, under the name of "the Gossip's Bridle," vol. ii. p. 331. And we are enabled to transfer a woodcut of it to our *Notes*, with the following information from that valuable work.

"This machine is made of thin iron, and so contrived as to pass over and round the head, when the whole clasps together, and is fastened at the back of the neck by a small padlock. The bridle-bit, as it is called, is a flat piece of iron, about two inches long and one inch broad, which goes into the mouth, and keeps down the tongue by its pressure; an aperture in front admits the nose to pass through. Although injured by rust, the inscription can still be read without much difficulty."

The date 1633 is stated to have been upon this instrument of torture, with the inscription given in G. W.'s *Current Notes* for last month, p. 21.

The Branks.—Is it not far more probable that the inscription upon this implement of punishment, mentioned in your *Current Notes* of last month, refers to the City of Chester than to an individual of that name? I find it stated in Brayley and Britton's History of Surrey, upon an authority "which cannot at present be ascertained," that its presentation (to Walton) arose from the circumstance of the individual whose name it bears, losing a valuable estate through the instrumentality of a gossiping lying woman. A.

Sonnet by the Honourable Mrs. Norton on Murray the publisher:—

John Murray! Dare I call thee, John?
  Yes: for who calls thee Mister Murray?
The first familiar name's the one
  Which puts us authors in a flurry.
The first familiar name is that
  Long linked with memories bright and pleasant;
With hours of intellectual chat
  O'er claret, venison, grouse, and pheasant;
And all the sunshine, clouds, and blame
  Which hang round Byron's chequered story,
Whom thy discernment led to Fame
  When fools denied the wreath of glory!

D'Israeli the elder and Sir Martin A. Shee. We have traced the presentation copy of "Elements of Art, a poem," by the late President of the Royal Academy, 1809, to D'Israeli, "*calf extra, marbled leaves*," to Lot 894 in the sale Catalogue of "a considerable portion of the valuable library of the late Isaac D'Israeli, Esq. author of the 'Curiosities of Literature,' and other popular works,"—a four days' sale, commencing March 16, 1849.

He was the father of the present Benjamin D'Israeli, Esq. M.P. and died at Bradenham House, Buckinghamshire, 19th January, 1848, after a long life devoted to literature, the few latter years of which were passed in blindness. Throughout life Mr. D'Israeli's private circumstances were affluent. His last London residence was in Bloomsbury Square; and the anecdote to which our subscriber refers as "frequently told by Murray" so improbable, that there must be some mistake on his part. B.

Moore and Jeffrey's Duel.—A Subscriber desires his thanks to Y. S. N. who, if he really wishes to communicate information to a laborious literary man, will do him the favour to state the Number of "Chambers' Papers for the People," that he may procure it for three halfpence; and our Subscriber hints, that G. W.'s *Current Notes* should not be made the medium of puffing this or any other work.

Monograms.

Sir,—The Monogram engraved in your February Number, is an example of a form of cypher or initials which was much in vogue about a century ago. I have an old family seal of about 1750, exhibiting a similar combination, and have seen many others. Its object seems to have been that both the seal itself and the impression should exhibit the initials legible the right way. I am inclined to think those

represented are L. J. C., certainly they are not D. C. I believe the fashion prevailed from about 1710 to 1740 or 1750. J. R.

Chronograms.—Perhaps one of the best in the English language is that which appears on the title page of George Wither's "Sighs for the Pitchers," published in the memorable year 1666.

LorD haVe MerCIe VpoN Vs.

L	50
D	500
V	5
M	1000
C	100
I	1
V	5
V	5
	1666

Orthography.—A verbal order was delivered to a bookseller to send a book, the name of which was written on the paper to be given with the message. This at first puzzled him—

"r a b i n i t s."

until an ingenious assistant suggested that it might mean "The Arabian Nights," and the conjecture proved to be correct. S.

Lady Morgan's Italy.—The first edition appeared in 1821, 2 vols. 4to.

Penny Postage.—Elizabeth, Countess of Thanet, petitioned the Irish Government "to erect a Penny Pacquet Office in Dublin and ten or twelve miles round it." This document is supposed to have perished in the fire which destroyed the Council Chamber of Dublin Castle in 1711. But a copy of it was preserved among the Southwell MSS. with a report relative to the London penny post, and an answer to the objections of the Post Master General in Ireland against it. Although the plan was not carried into effect, the Countess obtained a pension in July, 1706, of £300 per annum.

Silver more valuable than Gold.—A Fibula of Danish manufacture in the tenth century, found near Drogheda, by a beggar woman, and purchased for a few shillings, by Mr. Waterhouse, a silversmith, in Dublin, has recently attracted so much attention, that one thousand pounds were offered for it, and refused by Mr. Waterhouse. There can be no mistake about this fact, nor as to Mr. Waterhouse's mistake.

Roman Remains in the North.—The Duke of Northumberland, with that strong predilection for archæological science which his Grace has always evinced, and in a liberal spirit of encouragement to its professors, has determined, at his own expense, to prosecute with energy the excavations in his own county for the discovery, in and near the line of the wall of Severus, of Pictish and Roman remains. Everybody is aware of the exhumations made in this quarter during the last few years, and the success with which they have been attended; and they are now to be carried on upon a larger scale, in consequence, we understand, of the recent exposure of the foundations of a whole Roman town, and the finding of some highly interesting and valuable personal ornaments in gold, silver, and bronze. In order that this undertaking may be conducted in the best manner, and under the most competent supervision, we are informed that the Duke of Northumberland has written to Viscount Mahon, the President of the Society of Antiquaries, requesting his Lordship to select from the general body of members a deputation to take the management of the excavations, and the preservation of whatever may be produced by them. In addition, his Grace has kindly offered to entertain the deputation at Alnwick Castle during the progress of the inquiry, so that the whole may be performed in the fullest and most satisfactory manner. We have not heard what steps have yet been taken to comply with his Grace's wishes, nor at what period of the next summer it is proposed that the work should be commenced.—*The Home News, 24th March.*

The Inquisition.—A subscriber writes to us for the title of any modern work on the Spanish Inquisition. We cannot do better than refer him to the interesting and authentic account given of his sufferings by Don Juan van Halen, who was imprisoned at Madrid, but succeeded in effecting his escape. Such proceedings in the present century would almost be doubted, did they not come to us on the credit of an actual eye-witness. E.

Archæology.—The King of Denmark presided at a meeting of the Royal Society of Northern Antiquaries held at the palace of Christiansborg. His Majesty attended most carefully to all the business of the Society, and explained and illustrated by draughts and ground plans the excavations which, during the summer, he had caused to be made under his special direction, in the ruins of the old castles of Sotag and Adserbo in Zealand. The correspondent who sends this account, wonders what effect the presiding at a society of English Antiquarians on English Antiquities would have on the public if related of the Queen of England.—*The Times, 18th March.*

The Roman Pavement exhibited by M. Jovet, in Pall Mall, and which Sir Robert Peel desired to see, after attending a meeting of the Trustees of the British Museum, on the day he was unfortunately

thrown from his horse, has been, it is said, removed from this country to America; the enthusiastic proprietor requiring no less a sum for it than £4000, with a life annuity of £200 a year. By competent judges it was valued at £500, and a nobleman would, it is believed, have purchased it for double that sum. However this may be, that so valuable a specimen of Roman art should have been allowed to leave England, must be a matter of national regret.

A Professorship of Archæology at Cambridge has been offered to be founded by Mr. Disney's transferring £1000. 3 per cents to the University. The particulars of the proposed gift appeared in *the Daily News* of 3rd April.

The Bombast style has not died out with George Robins; for the Gentleman's Magazine continues to preserve specimens of it for the curious: see March number, p. 229.

"The Hunterston Runic Brooch was then exhibited, a very magnificent Scotish relic of silver, wrought in gold filagree and jewelled. It measures nearly *half a foot* in diameter."

Why not say six inches? Again,

"A small collection of antiquities and works of art, the property of the Rev. Dr. Neligan of Cork, recently *passed under the hammer* of Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson." I should have written as the more English, or the more manly expression, "were sold" or "knocked down by." A.

The Royal Literary Fund has petitioned the House of Commons in favour of a repeal of Legacy Duty on Charitable bequests.

The Inner Temple Masque, by William Browne, was first printed in the edition of that poet's works by the Rev. W. Thompson, 3 vols. 12mo. 1772. In the advertisement prefixed from the publisher (T. Davies, in Russell Street, Covent Garden) to the reader, an acknowledgment is made that the manuscript of this "excellent little poem" was procured, by the kindness of Mr. Farmer, from the Library of Emanuel College, Cambridge; and it is added that "Milton in all probability borrowed the idea of Comus from W. Browne's Masque."

Browne was a native of Devonshire, born in 1590, and is supposed to have died in 1645. His Inner Temple Masque was written previous to 1624.

The Graces.—"Raphael painted an exquisite gem of *the three*, which came into the possession of Sir Thomas Lawrence. Who," asks our correspondent, "has that inestimable jewel now? Mr. Ottley, Mrs. ——, and I, took tea with Sir Thomas one evening, and after viewing some of his finest drawings, he said, 'Ottley, I am now going to show you something worth looking at, an old favourite of yours.' He went and opened the square pedestal on which the Venus stood, and took out a small pannel—less than a foot square, advanced to the light, holding the black back to Ottley, and then quickly flashed it round. Mr. Ottley absolutely started on his chair, exclaiming,—'*Good God! is it* IT?' 'Look and judge for yourself,' said dear Lawrence."

American Opinions upon Art.—An eminent American physician and surgeon, Valentine Mott, who has recently written his travels, says a good deal about the Venus de Medicis, but finally prefers that of Canova, because *there is more of her*. "Valentine's opinion was always a good one," observed a critic, "it is exactly the reason why a butcher would prefer a big cow to a small one." Another writer, Mrs. Kirkland, who has lately published her "Holidays Abroad," and says many disparaging things of the Florentine figure, winds up by observing, she is in the attitude of an Opera girl who has finished a pirouette! "Smart writing that, we guess," is the critical comment.

Hone's Every-day Book was finished by him while confined for debt in the King's Bench prison. He died at Tottenham on the 6th November, 1842. His "Collection of Books, Tracts, Ballads, Prints, &c." were dispersed by public auction on the 25th February, 1843.

A note in the sale catalogue, after lot 212, states that "the lots to the end of the sale (from 213 to 338) are the tracts, ballads, prints, &c. collected by Mr. Hone, for the purpose of illustrating our national manners, customs, superstitions, amusements, dresses and popular antiquities, as exhibited in his interesting works, "*The Every-day Book*," "*Table Book*," "*Ancient Mysteries*," and edition of "*Strutt's Sports and Pastimes of the People of England*," as also for his intended "*History of Parody*," the materials for which are chiefly comprised in the present collection.

"'*The Ballads pasted on the Wall*' are, most of them, as regards literary merit, of humble pretensions; yet, as exemplifying the manners, habits, and customs of the times in which they were written, and chronicling local occurrences and passing events, omitted, or but slightly alluded to by the general historian, well merit the attention of the antiquary, more particularly when we find many of them have been considered worthy of admission into the collections of Percy, Evans, Ritson and other eminent archæologists.

"The '*Penny Histories, Merriments and Pieties*,' 'the classics of an age that knew none,' were once so popular as to be printed in every large town in the kingdom, but are now altogether supplanted by

other literature, and are no longer published. Opportunities of acquiring them very rarely occur."

J. O. Halliwell, Esq., F.R.S., &c. collects *Penny Histories*, and is the Secretary of the Percy Society. To him G. W. must refer for further information.

Chess.—The Koran forbids the making of figures in imitation of man, woman, or beast; hence the Turks use Chessmen of a plain form. It is related by Sokeiker, of Damascus, author of the Book Mustatsaph, and is also recorded in the Sunna, that in the time of Mahomet, as Ali accidentally passed by some men playing at chess, he said to them, "What are these small images upon which ye are so intent?" Chess not being then generally known.

Alkoran.—The Koran of Mahomet, written about A.D. 610. Its general aim was to unite the professors of idolatry, and the Jews and Christians, in the worship of one God (whose unity was the chief point inculcated), under certain laws and ceremonies, exacting obedience to Mahomet as the prophet. Mahomet asserted that the Koran was revealed to him during a period of twenty-three years, by the angel Gabriel. He admitted the divine mission both of Moses and Jesus Christ. Dr. Jortin says that the style of the Koran is beautiful, fluent and concise, and where the majesty and attributes of God are described, it is sublime and magnificent.

Bible Statistics.—The first English edition of the Bible was printed in 1535; the present translation, finished in 1611; permitted by the Pope to be translated into all the languages of the Catholic states, February 28, 1759: the following is a dissection of the Old and New Testaments, made by some curious painstaker:

	In the Old Testament.	In the New	Total.
Books .	39	27	66
Chapters .	9,929	260	10,189
Verses .	23,214	7,957	31,171
Words .	592,493	181,253	773,746
Letters .	2,728,100	838,380	3,566,480

The Apocrypha has 183 chapters, 6,081 verses, and 125,185 words. The middle chapter, and the least, in the Bible, is the 117th Psalm; the middle verse is the 8th of 118th Psalm; the middle line is in the 2nd Book of Chronicles, 4th chapter, and 16th verse: the word *and* occurs in the Old Testament 35,535 times; the same word in the New Testament occurs 10,684 times; the word Jehovah occurs 6,855 times.

Old Testament.—The Middle Book is Proverbs; the middle chapter, the 29th of Job; the least verse is the 1st Book of Chronicles, 1st chapter, and 1st verse.

New Testament.—The middle is the Thessalonians 2nd; the middle chapter is between the 13th and 14th of the Romans; the middle verse is the 17th of the 17th chapter of the Acts; the least verse is the 35th of the 11th chapter of the Gospel by St. John.

The 21st verse of the 7th chapter of Ezra has all the letters of the alphabet in it.

The 19th chapter of the 2nd Book of Kings, and the 37th chapter of Isaiah, are alike.

The Book of Esther has 10 chapters, but neither the words *Lord* nor *God* in it.

Bug.—This word is of Celtic origin, and signifies a ghost or goblin.

> "Tush, tush, fright boys with bugs."
>
> *Taming of the Shrew*, Act I. Scene 2.

In Matthews's Bible, A.D. 1537, the fifth verse of the ninety-first Psalm is thus rendered: "Thou shalt not need to be afraid of any *bugs* by night;" literally, in the Hebrew, *terror of the night*. The word was not applied to a well-known sleep-destroyer, truly a "terror of the night," till late in the 17th century.

The Bible just referred to, was published by John Rogers, the martyr with the debateable number of small children. He revised Tindale's edition, to which he added a preface and various notes, and then dedicated it, under the assumed name of Matthews, to Henry VIII.

Curious and Costly Work of Art.—The *Brussels Herald* has the following:—A rich landholder of the Walloon Provinces has lately ordered from MM. Depaepe Brothers, of Bruges, an artistic work which will take 20 years to execute. They have received instructions to copy, in Gothic letters, "L'Imitation de Jésus Christ." This work will fill 670 pages, each of which will be of about three quarters of a yard in height, by eighteen inches wide. They will have to execute 114 engravings, forming copies of the great Masters of the Flemish school, *viz.* Van Eyck, Memling, Pourbus, Claessens, &c. The pages on which will be displayed the "Imitation of Jesus Christ," will be encircled by garlands and other ornaments in blue and gold. MM. Depaepe have already begun their immense undertaking, and the first year of their contract has concluded. The title page alone requires several columns for the description.

Newspapers.—The total number of advertisements inserted in the 159 London newspapers in the year 1850 was 891,650, and the duty, at 1*s* 6*d* each, amounted to £66,873. 15*s*. In the 222 English newspapers there were 875,631 advertisements inserted, which yielded £65,672. 6*s* 6*d*. In the 102 Irish newspapers there were 236,128 advertisements, yielding a duty, at 1*s*. each, of £11,806. 8*s*; and in 110 Scotch newspapers the advertisements numbered 249,141, and the duty amounted to £18,685. 11*s*. 6*d*.

The total number of newspaper stamps issued in

the year 1850, in England and Wales was, of penny stamps 65,741,271, and of halfpenny 11,604,423. In Ireland 6,302,728 penny, and 43,358 halfpenny. In Scotland 7,643,045 penny, and 241,264 halfpenny.

Interesting Autographs.—A very interesting Collection of Autograph Letters was sold by Messrs. Puttick and Simpson of Piccadilly, on Tuesday and Wednesday last. It contained such an assemblage of Royal Letters, English and Foreign, as does not usually occur. We may mention, as belonging to this series, a letter of Henry VIII. to Cardinal Ravennes; a letter of Queen Catherine Parr; a letter of Queen Elizabeth, inviting Henry IV. of France to pay her a visit; a letter of the same Henry IV. on the occasion of his separation from his first wife Margaret; two letters of Charles II. to his sisters; and—if it be not treason to mention them in the same sentence—Oliver Cromwell, and more of the Regicides than we ever remember to have seen in any one Catalogue. The Gownsmen were well represented by Beza, Cranmer, Whitgift and Strype, and last, certainly not least in the eyes of Collectors, Cardinal Wolsey. Had we space, we might notice in detail many other rarities, for instance, Alexander Farnese, Sir Ph. Sidney, Matt. Prior, J. J. Rousseau, Rubens, Sir C. Wren, and many others of no ordinary pretensions. The Catalogue raisonné of the auctioneers, is, as usual, replete with information, and in itself a contribution to history. We can, however, devote space to one extract only, from a letter of Lord Byron. Let the Catalogue speak for itself.

"Allegra," the natural daughter of Byron, died on the 20th of April, 1822. This beautiful but melancholy letter was written immediately after he had received intelligence of that event. He says, "Death has done his work—and I am resigned—for however deeply human scrutiny may pry into the infinitely perplexed combination of events—however accurately human prudence may understand, arrange, and make use of what it knows—it still ever remains confined, nor even dreams of a thousand matters which come forth from the womb of the next hour. Even at my age, I have become so much worn and harassed by the trials of the world, that I cannot refrain from looking upon that *early rest*, which is at times granted to the young, as a blessing. There is a purity and a holiness in the apotheosis of those who leave us in their brightness and their beauty, which instinctively lead us to a persuasion of their beatitude." Etc.

Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia.—On the 16th instant, Mr. Hodgson sold by auction, in one lot, the stock, copyright, stereotype plates, steel plates and woodcuts of the Cabinet Cyclopædia, by Dr. Lardner, in 133 vols. foolscap 8vo.; the copyright of Sir J. Mackintosh's History of the Revolution in England in 1688; the ditto, or shares in the same, of Herschel's Outlines of Astronomy, and Bp. Thirlwall's History of Greece, in 8 vols.; also the ditto, in 1 vol. 12mo. of Dr. Schmitz's abridgment of the latter work, with a MS. of the Lives of eminent Italian Painters, by Thomas Roscoe. The auctioneer said that the property comprised sixty different copyrights, for which £40,000 had been given. The stock, which consisted of 46,000 volumes, was estimated at about £5000; £19,000 had been expended in the stereotype plates, steel plates and woodcuts. There was a large number of publishers present. The first offer was £3000, and after an active competition, it was knocked down to Messrs. Longman and Co. for £9,500. The auctioneer observed he expected the property would have realised £11,000 or £12,000.

The Waverley Copyrights.—The whole copyrights, stock, &c. of Sir Walter Scott's works, which were offered for public competition in London a few weeks ago, have now been transferred to the hands of an eminent publishing firm in Edinburgh, Messrs. Adam and Charles Black, who, in conjunction with their friends, Messrs. Richardson Brothers, have become the purchasers of this extensive and valuable literary property. The lustre that Sir Walter Scott's writings have shed upon his native land will thus continue, so to speak, emanating from his own loved "romantic town," the place of his birth and residence, and the scene of so many of the historical events so vividly emblazoned on his pages. The copyrights and stock are said to be acquired by the present purchasers for £27,000, or £10,000 under what Mr. Cadell paid for copyrights alone. The highest offer last month for copyrights and stock was £24,500.

Feline Felicity.—"*The Hampshire Independent*," of 12th April, announces the marriage of Charles Catt, Esq. of Brighton, to Mary Ann, daughter of the late Benjamin Mew, Esq. of Newport, Isle of Wight. T. F. D. C.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Lafortelle, M., Drama, Paris, aged 76.

Œrsted, Hans Christian, His Excellency. Professor of Natural Philosophy, Secretary of the Royal Society of Copenhagen, aged 74. Royal Gardens, Fredericksberg, 9th March.

Parry, John, Bardd Alaw, born at Denbigh, N. W. Feb. 18, 1776. Great Russell Street, Bloomsbury Square, aged 76. 8th April.

Bagster, Samuel, Publisher, aged 80, Windsor, 27th March. The numerous works published by him connected with the study of Theology are so universally known and appreciated as to leave little to be said on the subject; whilst Bagster's Bibles and Prayer Books, in all languages, are known for correctness of text, elegance of printing, &c. as Household Words.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. V.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [MAY, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting letters and documents he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes*, which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

ENGLAND, ITS ARCHÆOLOGY, ANTIQUARIANISM, AND ITS BRITISH MUSEUM.—In the "*Times*" of the first of this month (a day ever to be remembered), appeared an article of three columns, on the works of Art and Antiquity in Denmark, compared with those of our own country generally, and with those of the British Museum in particular. It should be studied by the Trustees of that national and expensive establishment; and, which is better, by those who appoint the Trustees. Speaking of the Museum of Northern Antiquities, the "*Times*" observes:—"As one ranges through these noble rooms, filled with the rarest treasures, he asks how it is, that Denmark, this little and not over-rich kingdom, has gathered such a noble collection to illustrate her ancient history, while we in England have nothing but a few scattered pieces of mosaic, of tesselated pavement, &c., of chivalresque accoutrements, and here and there a bit of an old enamel, perched up and down in the cabinets of the curious, or shovelled away in an out-of-the-way room in the Museum." The reply is, the Danish antiquaries are sincere, and in earnest; they seek the true ends of science, and do not make it a cloak for all sorts of jobberies and selfishness. Antiquarianism in Denmark is more dignified than in England, and takes a higher stand; there are no pitiful personalities to interfere in the general endeavour to do honour to the national remains; there the antiquaries do not court the great, but the great consider themselves flattered in being allowed to mix with the antiquaries. The King himself unostentatiously presides over the meetings, and directs the proceedings. He receives the members in his palace, knows them, and knows their wants. We doubt if our gracious Majesty knows the existence of our Society of Antiquaries. We doubt if the noble President knows much of the individual merits of the members; and he, let it be observed, is one of the Trustees of the Museum, further described by the "*Times*" as the place in which we get together all sorts of things, *except* our national antiquities. "The conservation of the national antiquities is, in Denmark, a national object, encouraged, insisted on, and rewarded by the law. It is here (in England), the result of an erratic and not over-common individual taste; and while we collect birds, beasts, and fishes from every nook in land or sea, while we hunt up butterflies and impale earwigs, while we treasure up the marks of an ichthyosaurus in the mud, revel over the eye-tooth of a mastodon, and dance in ecstacy over the stump of a river-god's statue—while we rejoice exceedingly over the sculpture of Mosul or the arrowheaded characters of Persepolis, and gather up Egyptian bricks and African Fetish bones, we neglect or disregard all traces of the early fathers of our race, doom to destruction the impress stamped by the stately march of the Romans on our soil, mix up in a metallic jumble all the various and widely different relics left by the ancient conquerors, each of whom transfused his blood into our people, and cramming them into some obscure room of the huge and very costly edifice erected for the benefit of all nations but our own, permit the enquiring, as best he may, to find out our department of British Antiquities." There is, in fact, no department for him to find out. It seems as if the Trustees were ashamed of being Englishmen, and had contrived on purpose everything to evade inquiry on British matters. Mr. Hume and Mr. R. M. Milnes were on the late Commission of Inquiry, but we never heard that they asked the right questions. "For my own part," continues the Correspondent to the Neptune of the press, "I would not have given any one shelf in the Danish collection for a wilderness of monkeys, or all the minerals in the British Museum. Professor Thomsen and Mr. Worsaae evidently pitied us too greatly to do more than use a little raillery on the uses and abuses of the British Museum, but their forbearance was all the worse." In answer to this, we can imagine the Trustees coolly saying, "Oh, don't make such a fuss; we are going to give you a room for your British Antiquities by and bye; but they are ugly things to look at: you should go and see our Egyptian room, and the South Sea department. But have you seen the winged bull? that's something like an

antiquity." Thus, money will be voted year after year, and the same caprice in the collecting of antiquities will reign in the British Museum as heretofore. There are some abuses which are too mighty to be reformed, and among them are the Corporation of London and the British Museum.

M.

The Literature of the Sixteenth and Seventeenth Centuries has, to a limited extent, received good service by J. O. Halliwell, Esq. F.R.S. reprinting, "for private circulation only," seventy-five copies of nine of the rarest tracts of which he is cognizant, that have issued from the press during that period, (25 copies on thick, and 50 copies on ordinary paper). They are entitled:—

1. *Harry White his Humour.* This curious satirical tract was written by Martin Parker, a well-known ballad writer of the seventeenth century. "I am," adds Mr. Halliwell, "acquainted with the existence of only one copy, which is preserved in the Bodleian Library."

2. *The Two Italian Gentlemen.*—An extremely rare and curious early drama, printed late in 1584 or early in the following year, being entered on the registers of the Stationers' Company, 12th November, 1584. "Tho Hackett Rd. of him for printinge a booke entituled Fidele and Fortun: the Deceipts in Love discoursed in a Comedie of ij Italy an Gent: translated into Englishe." See Collier's *Extracts*, p. 193, and *Hist. Dram. Poet.* iii. 241. Only two copies are known to exist, one having a dedication signed A. M., which Mr. Collier attributes to Anthony Munday. "I regret," adds Mr. Halliwell, "I had not an opportunity of reprinting the whole of this curious play, which contains a scene which might, by possibility, have been the germ of one in Macbeth."

3. *Tailor's Travels.* An interesting work by the honest Water-poet, containing valuable notices of Charles I. and, perhaps, suppressed for political reasons. The copy used by Mr. Halliwell was lent to him by his late friend, Sir Cuthbert Sharp, and is now in the possession of the Rev. A. Dyce.

4. *Wyl Buche.* A copy of this tract, which chiefly consists of culinary receipts for dressing various joints, and making savoury courses of the buck or the doe, is in the Bodleian Library. A few copies of it were reprinted by the late Mr. Haslewood.

5. *The Booke of Merry Riddles.* The head-line of this excessively rare chap book is, *The Booke of Riddles*, and there can scarcely be a doubt that it is a later impression of the book which Master Slender lent "to Alice Shortcake upon Allhallowmas last, a fortnight afore Michaelmas." If so, it becomes an important literary curiosity, independently of its intrinsic value as a remnant of our early popular literature. Under this impression, Mr. Halliwell has engraved fac-similes of the titles of the two earliest editions known to exist. The edition of 1631 differs very materially from the previous one, and omits the collection of proverbs. From internal evidence, Mr. Halliwell is disposed to believe that the edition of 1629 is a genuine reprint of the old "Book of Riddles," which is mentioned by Laneham as early as 1575.

6. *All for Money.* This old moral play has been fully described by Mr. Collier in his *History of Dramatic Poetry*, vol. ii. p. 347. Mr. Collier mentions it as "one of the most elaborate and involved of our later Morals." It is a very heavy drama, but contains some curious allusions.

7. *Wine, Beere, Ale, and Tobacco.* Mr. Halliwell has been informed that this tract had been previously reprinted; "But if so," he adds, "it is in some work of rare circulation, for I have not been able to find any mention of a modern edition of it."

8. *A New Booke of New Conceits.* This curious tract, by Thomas Johnson, is not mentioned by Lowndes. Mr. Halliwell adds, "I know of only one copy."

9. *Love's Garland.* Those who are at all acquainted with the extreme rarity of very early Garlands, will agree in the probability that the one here reprinted is unique. An imperfect copy of a much later edition, printed by Andrew Clark, 1674, was in the possession of the late Mr. Heber, and has now passed into the library of Mr. Utterson. See a list of a very curious collection of early merriments in *Bibliotheca Heberiana*, iv. 1743.

Monograms and Merchants' Marks.—From the many communications received on this subject, it appears to be exciting considerable attention in the public mind; and it is one of some importance in the present confusion of tongues, but it can scarcely be expected that G. W. can engrave (and without engraving it is impossible to explain) all the specimens forwarded to him. He however feels himself bound to give the following observations forwarded to him by a valued correspondent, R. P. (*Elgin*), 7th May, with reference to his *Current Notes*:—

"I see in your last Number some remarks by I. R. on the monogram inserted in your February Number, in which he is inclined to think they are L. I. C. I have seen nothing in any Number of yours, where any person thought them D. C.

"In the March Number, I see my remarks on it, and that I thought it composed of the letters I. D. I now enclose you a copy of the monogram in question, as I make them out I. D. or D. I., and I shall be happy to have I. R.'s in the same way, as I can't make out where the L terminates and the C begins. If it is L. I. C. the break in it, made by the bottom of the I, cannot be considered the end of the letter, I think. These monograms were common at the period mentioned by your Correspondent, and

even later, particularly to publishers, to none more so than the Messrs. Dodsley, and many others.

"On the same paper with the above monogram I send you a small one, thus, apparently I. H. or H. S. H., which I have on an old etching of a Jew's head, about three inches square, the plate and the style of the etching apparently in imitation of Rembrandt, but I cannot make out who is the Artist, as no such monogram is in Bryan, or any other Dictionary of Engravers that I have looked over. Can any of your Correspondents inform me who it is by?"

Forgers of Coins, Rings, Seals, &c.—The extent of the trade carried on in such things would scarcely be believed. But antiquarians, collectors, and connoisseurs know to their cost, how dexterously the fraudulent forgers of antiquities impose their spurious works upon the unwary and inexperienced. It would fill a volume to detail the arts resorted to, to entrap people of various classes and of various degrees of archæological calibre. In coins, the veteran Singleton, with an *alias* for every place he visited, raised for years enormous sums by his cleverly executed coins. His portrait was taken, etched, and circulated, and the hoary rogue once or twice narrowly escaped being arrested and transported; for Act 7 & 8 Geo. IV. cap. 29. sec. 53. clearly applies to him, and he would, in the instances alluded to, have been prosecuted without mercy, but he absconded in time. In vol. 2 of the *Numismatic Chronicle* will be found a list of the coins which Singleton deals in, for he is still actively employed, and we saw him the other day, "with spectacles on nose," in apparent good health, taking his rounds. Still more clever is Mr. Emary, a native of, or resident at, a fashionable watering place in Sussex. He has regularly engaged a London die sinker to make dies of rare coins, and of such as never existed; and they are exquisitely engraved and struck. The late Mr. Till had this rogue in his custody, and would have prosecuted him, but he fell upon his knees before him, implored Mr. Till to think of his (Emary's) mother, and Till goodnaturedly forgave him, but he returned to his profession almost directly.

L. K. S.

Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson have inserted the following note in the Sale Catalogue of the Coins and Antiquities of the late Rev. Edward Leigh:

"Lot 8. False Ancient British, eight silver, *from modern dies;* and one cast in soft metal.

*** A most instructive and interesting lot to all those who cultivate the study of our primæval coinage. It is painful to be convinced by the sight of these impressions from modern dies, that there exists more need than ever of being always careful in purchasing coins of this class, which in their nature offer such facilities to the forger."

Ethelwulf's Ring.—The daring forgery of this well-known relic, which is in the British Museum, and is noticed in the "Archæologia," vii. p. 421, and in Akerman's "Archæological Index," xix. 4, and also in Mr. Shaw's work, has occasioned no little stir in the Antiquarian market. L.

Note on Sir Walter Scott.—In Sir Walter Scott's Novel of Redgauntlet, a slight inaccuracy occurs in the first volume, ch. xii. Sir W. has there quoted the following expression, "And then bob it away like Madge of Middlebie." Now, though in general a correct antiquarian, Sir Walter has here fallen into an error with respect to the name of the heroine, which ought to be "*Blanche* of Middlebie," and the circumstance which gave rise to the saying is as follows:—King James V. on one of his clandestine rambles, rested a night at the house of "Bell of Between the Waters," in the parish of Middlebie, in Dumfriesshire, and the laird's daughter, Miss Blanche Bell, performed a jig before the monarch; having a good ankle, she held her petticoats rather high, at which the King, being well pleased, laughed heartily, clapped his hands, and ever and anon, as the young lady pirouetted round, cried out, "Weel bobbit it, Blanche o'Middlebie." * Moreover, when the dance was finished, tradition records that the King gave her a kiss, and swore that "She bore the bell frae a' the lasses ever he saw dance;" from which this family of the Bells derive their motto, still carried on their coat of arms, "I beir the bel."

M.

* The Bells having come originally from France, Blanche was long a family name among them.

International Copyright.—Extract of a letter from the Hague:—"Yesterday the King received, at a private audience, M. Dubois de Saligny, Minister Plenipotentiary from France to the Court of the Netherlands, who had the honour of presenting to his Majesty Baron Billing, charged by the French Government with the mission of negotiating between that country and Holland, Belgium, and England, treaties, having for their object the reciprocal protection of literary property. This audience lasted for upward of three hours. The King told the two diplomatists that he was greatly desirous of seeing the adoption of a general and efficacious measure for the repression of this piratical system. His Majesty denominated the persons guilty of these acts as no better than mental robbers, and purloiners of others' intellect."—*Sunday Times, 4th May.*

Irish Proverbial Philosophy.—

"Money they say is the Devil—and God is good, that he keeps it from us."

"Our old friend *Tim* with an *e* to his tail will soon settle all this bother."—(*Time.*)

"Sure then—my father-in-law's daughter made a happy man of me; and her Dublin fortune of two

washing gowns and a tune on the piano was not the least objection in life." B.

Lady Morgan.—" By the last steamer I have shipped the four copies of Lady Morgan's Italy for New York. The present popularity of this work reminds me of the story that was told about her by her father, old Owenson, the Irish actor, who, when her " Wild Irish Girl" appeared in Dublin, swore " by —— that so many Archbishops were knocking at his door to enquire after his daughter, that they had worn out the knocker." H. C.

Irish Taste.—The inclosed advertisement I have cut from the " Freeman's Journal" of 17th March, 1851. (*St. Patrick's Day.*) P.

Dublin.

" The Great Monster Pig, about 10 cwt. weight, intended for the Great Exhibition of London, will be exhibited this day, and for one week, at 27, Mary Street (nearly opposite Messrs. Todd and Burns).—Messrs. M'Dermott, Proprietors."

Shakspere's House Mangled. (*Again.*)

" Sir,—As you have informed me that more enquiries than one have been made for my card with reference to an article which appeared in your *Notes* for last month under the title of " Shakspere's House Mangled," I have no hesitation in stating that the subscriptions to which I refer as having been paid by me to Mr. Pettigrew of Saville Row, were those of Lord Londesborough, Mr. Barrow of the Admiralty, and your humble servant,

" T. CROFTON CROKER,

" J. P. Westminster,

" Oriental Hotel, Southampton, 2nd May, 1851.

" Mr. Willis."

Shakspere's House Mangled.

To Mr. Willis, Publisher and Bookseller, Covent Garden.

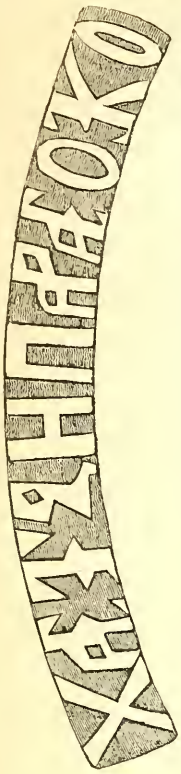
Sir,—The last Number of your Catalogue, of the date of April 25th, contains, in that portion which is devoted to " *Current Notes*," a statement under the above head, which has occasioned me no little surprise, as it would appear to be the intention of the writer, under the initials T. C. C., who my solicitor informs me, he has ascertained from you to be Thomas Crofton Croker, to impute either to me, or to the Treasurer of the Shakespeare Fund, the receipt of money without giving a proper acknowledgment. It is, therefore, incumbent upon you to give insertion to the following facts in your next Number. At the Congress of the British Archæological Association, held at Warwick, in July, 1847, Shakespeare's House, at Stratford-upon-Avon, was visited by the members, and they were recived by the Mayor and Corporation, and the Officers of the Royal Shaksperian Club, in the Town Hall. At that meeting, I had the honour, in the absence of Lord Albert Conyngham, to preside; and among other resolutions passed on the occasion, was one in regard to the formation of a London Committee from members of the various Literary and Archæological Societies, to be in connection with the one at Stratford, to raise funds for the purchase of the house, with the view of presenting it to the country. A Committee was in consequence formed, and several gentlemen of the British Archæological Association became members of the same. In the list appear the names of Lord Albert Conyngham (now Lord Londesborough), John Barrow, Esq. of the Admiralty, and Mr. Crofton Croker, late of the Admiralty. The latter brought to me, on the 29th of Sept., a cheque for seven guineas, five of that amount being the subscription of Lord A. C., and one guinea each from the two other members. This sum was *voluntarily* brought to me, to be placed with the subscriptions of other members of the Archæological Association, of which body I was and am the Treasurer, and to be paid to the Shakespeare Fund. I find that I delivered three lists into the Shakespeare Fund Committee, and paid altogether the sum of £118. 17*s.*, for which I hold the receipt of Mr. Peter Cunningham, the Treasurer; and, in the *printed* lists put forth by the Committee, the names of Lord A. Conyngham, Mr. Barrow, and Mr. Croker appear for the sums they severally subscribed. I was not a collector, or even an officer of that Fund, and therefore could not, I presume, be expected to give receipts for subscriptions; nor did Mr. Croker, from 1847 to the present time, ever apply to me for them, or signify in any way his desire to have any. Neither Lord Albert Conyngham nor Mr. Barrow, I am certain, would have thought of requiring such from me. Besides, these three subscribers were equally with myself members of the Committee, were summoned to the meetings, and could therefore have no difficulty of knowing whether their several subscriptions had been properly carried to account; and they had further means of knowing that the same had been paid over, as their names were printed in the lists circulated to the Committee and Subscribers, and also repeatedly advertized in the Newspapers and Literary Journals. There is, therefore, not the slightest excuse for the wanton statement made by T. C. C., which could only have been inserted to answer some malignant purpose.

I am, your obedient servant,

Saville Row, May 12, 1851. T. J. Pettigrew.

Story of Nell Gwyn in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for this month. "The part of Hamlet omitted by particular desire." A.

Newspaper Paragraphs.—When aware that any paragraph has been copied from a newspaper, it is G. W.'s desire that the same should be acknowledged, and he hopes, after this explanation, a similar line of conduct will be observed by the editors of newspapers towards his *Current Notes*.



Ancient Metal Dish.—Dr. Stukely, in a curious and interesting letter respecting "Cæsar's Passage over the Thames," addressed to Dr. Ducarel in October, 1752, describes his visit to the spot where *Chertsey Abbey* once stood, and the many articles of antiquity there discoverable. Among other curiosities which have been found within these precincts, is an antique metal dish, (of lattin, or copper), which is stated to be now in the possession of Mr. Robert Wetton of Chertsey, and is supposed to have been in his family more than two hundred years. Its diameter, at bottom, is five inches and a half, and the breadth of the rim is two inches and a quarter. Can any of your Correspondents explain the inscription upon it, of which I send you a tracing? R. S.

G. Willis will feel much obliged for any Communications upon this subject.

Ancient Fibula.

9, Upper Ormond Quay, Dublin,
April 28, 1851.

Dear Sir,—There is an article in your *Notes* for this month about a Fibula, in the possession of Mr. Waterhouse, of this city. I think *every* statement in it is *incorrect*, except that Mr. W. has got a Fibula; but I mention it only to say, that it is to be exhibited in the 'Crystal Palace,' and if you should recur to the subject, you may safely say that it is the most curious Irish relic in existence, if not the most delicate and beautiful specimen left us of the mediæval artists of my country.

I am, dear Sir, your obedient servant,
Mr. G. Willis. John R. Littledale.

G. W. has taken some pains to ascertain the accuracy of the statement made in the last number of his *Notes* respecting this Fibula, and he is assured that "the circumstances there given are substantially correct, as the story was told at a dinner table by parties not likely to be misinformed, and where a cast of the Fibula, which has since been engraved in the 'Art Journal,' was exhibited." He has, however learned, upon further investigation, that a lady who *had heard* that Mr. Waterhouse had refused £500 for this relic, said, then "it must be worth a thousand pounds;" but whether any offer of the former sum had been actually made for the purchase, G. W. is unable to ascertain. However there can be no doubt that it is a beautiful and valuable piece of ancient workmanship, which would probably, as stated in the assertion that "silver" was "more valuable than gold," produce more than its weight in the latter metal. Whether this Fibula be of Danish or Irish mediæval manufacture must be left for Antiquarian investigation to decide; at the same time G. W.'s correspondent remarks, that "the word mediæval is a very equivocal expression, and in the tenth century, to which I have assigned it, Ireland may be said to have been a Danish settlement."

The Downpatrick Recorder of 3rd May, (which G. W. is happy to find acknowledges his *Current Notes* to be passable), remarks with reference to the paragraph in the last No. entitled, *Silver more valuable than Gold*, "Does Mr. Willis mean the 'Tara Brooch?' If so, there is no mistake, except it be on the part of the learned Bibliopole himself, and we are of opinion that he is the only one who has made a *mistake* on the subject."

G. W. is always happy to admit any mistake made by him when clearly established, and he hopes that he will be met in the same spirit. Without further correspondence, he thinks he has a right to ask the 'Recorder,' what is meant by the 'Tara Brooch?' and why that in the possession of Mr. Waterhouse, and now exhibited in the 'Crystal Palace,' should be so called? being found, as G. W. has been assured, in the neighbourhood of Drogheda, which is distant some ten or a dozen miles from the "Tara's halls," with which the English public are more familiar through "the Harp" of their poet Moore, than with the long buried manufactures in the bogs or ditches about Drogheda.

M. R. I. A. writes, "I never heard of the Tara *brooch*, or fibula, although I have heard of, and more than that, subscribed for, the purchase of two gold Torques, or *collars*, *said* to have been found at Tara, about five-and-twenty years previous to the year 1839, when they were exhibited by Mr. Petrie to the Royal Irish Academy. These, as I have stated, were of gold, and are figured in the Transactions of that Society. No 1. weighed 27 oz. 9 dwts. and measured 5 feet 7 inches in length. No. 2. was 5 feet 6 inches, and weighed 12 oz. 6 dwts. A list of the subscribers by whom these Torques were purchased for the Academy was printed by them; and as well as I can recollect, the subscription amounted to about two hundred pounds. From your *Notes*, it would appear desirable that other accounts were printed beside those of the Royal Irish Academy.

Evelyn's Ring.—The enquiry in your last Number after Mr. Kyrle's ring, reminds me of a note I made from "Brayley and Britton's Surrey," re-

specting the ring of an equally amiable man—John Evelyn, which is particularly mentioned by him in the codicil to his will (29th February, 1703), as bequeathed to his grandson John Evelyn, with his "Table-diamond Ring and fine Onix Seale, set in Gold in fleure work, with my Cyfer and Armes inamell'd, as another Onix Ring insculpt with a Genius Antiq'. but the shield with my Armes on it is moderne; this being the Ring I usualy wore and sealed with."

G. W. is happy to be able to add a woodcut from an impression on sealing wax of Evelyn's ring.

The Society of Antiquaries.—It is stated in the last Number of your *Notes*, that this Society "has celebrated the hundredth year of its existence." How is this to be reconciled with the date on the seal of the Society now before me, "1717?" Q.

Browne's Britannia's Pastorals.—At the meeting of the Society of Antiquaries, on the 13th February last, Robert Cole, Esq. F.S.A. exhibited a copy of this work, containing a great many manuscript notes believed to be in the hand-writing of John Milton.

Two Ways of telling a Story are not badly illustrated by what was said in some local Newspaper and "*the Times*," with respect to a tribute offered to Joseph Hume, Esq. some twenty-five or thirty years ago. The former announced that the people, I think, of Herefordshire, presented that gentleman with a hogshead of cyder, and a splendid silver tankard; the latter recorded the circumstance thus—that "a tub of cyder had been given to Mr. Hume, with a mug to drink it out of."

Now, if I am to believe the Gentleman's Magazine, the Centenary Anniversary of the Society of Antiquaries, celebrated on the 23rd of April, did honour to the general cause of antiquarian literature, &c. &c. And the speeches of the noble President (Lord Mahon), his Excellency M. Van de Weyer, the Chevalier Bunsen, the Duke of Northumberland, Lord Campbell, Sir David Dundas, the Dean of St. Paul's, &c. &c. were sublime. And to make the party perfect, only the attendance of Sir Thomas Barrett Lennard, "the father of the Society," as the venerable authority from which I quote styles him, he being only a few years junior thereunto—was wanted to make up the efficiency of this charming evening.

Now "*the Times*," if I am to credit it, states that the speeches made on this intellectual occasion were not remarkable for their antiquarian character, and that they would have told equally well on any other day, and for any other purpose. That, moreover, the guests who had distinguished themselves in Archæology, and had been invited by the Society, were not included in the toasts! Lord Campbell, whose health *was* drunk, told his hosts (honestly enough) that he knew nothing of antiquities, and I believe (as well as I could hear) that other Noblemen made declarations to the same effect. Those persons who did know something about the matter for which the meeting was held, were not called upon to speak.

There is, in the Society of Antiquaries, an outcry against the present Council, as being composed chiefly of gentlemen unknown in the Society for their literary and antiquarian contributions to its transactions.

The Duke of Northumberland expressed a hope that the two Archæological Societies would unite under the Antiquaries; and it is said, that his Grace is striving to effect this desirable object, by inviting a deputation to Alnwick Castle. Sincerely do I hope that his Grace will persist in his noble and worthy resolution to effect a union so much to be desired; much as I doubt his being able to accomplish it. He will, however, detect the parties who keep open the separation, and I fear they are gentlemen closely connected with the British Museum. If so, this is another inconsistency in the National Institution.

F. S. A.

Elegnor Rumming was hostess of an inn near Leatherhead. Mr. Dyce gives some notes about her in the second volume of his edition of Skelton, but they are so confused, I am puzzled to know whether he considers the character supposititious. Mr. Dyce's notes are very learned; *exempli gratia*, at p. 187, we are instructed that *gummys* mean *gums*, and at p. 175, that *quod* means *quoth!* J. S. R.

Hackney.

Natural History.—The Peninsular and Oriental Steam Navigation Company attempted to introduce a living Crocodile into this country by their steam ship "Ripon," as a formidable rival to the Hippopotamus. The attempt was, however, (unfortunately for our erpetologists), frustrated. The creature died after leaving Malta one day. Take them out of their own climate, and it seems these ferocious reptiles of the Nile become as tender as hothouse plants when exposed to a colder temperature than that they are accustomed to. The skin and entrails were carefully preserved and forwarded to the Zoological Society. A lively little ring-tailed monkey, which arrived in the "Ganges," accompanied the corpse to London as chief mourner—(for its own liberty). An interesting addition to the museum of the Society has been made by Dr. Getty (surgeon of the "Indus,") presenting them with a quadruped bird (a quail) which was given to him at Alexandria. T. F. D. C.

The Royal Literary Fund held its sixty-second Anniversary Dinner on the 14th of May. His Excellency M. Van de Weyer, the Belgian Minister,

in the Chair, who announced that Lord Campbell would preside next year.

The Rev. Dr. Russell stated, that during the past year there had been 38 cases to which relief had been afforded, at an expense of £1035. Among these there had been, of writers on history and biography, 4; biblical literature, 5; science and art, 3; topography and travels, 4; education 5; poetry, 4; essays and tales, 7; drama, 1; law, 1; medicine 1; miscellaneous, 3. He then proceeded to read the list of subscriptions for the present year, the amount of which he announced, at the close of the proceedings, as being £736.

This Institution may have, and probably has its faults—but they are not those of ostentation.

The Guild of Literature and Art has made its debut; and, of course, being themselves a "press gang" wedged into Devonshire House through the vanity or good nature of Sir Bulwer Lytton and Miss Burdett Coutts, have given deadly offence to their fellows. This does not augur well for the Utopian scheme of a harmonious Commonwealth to be composed of Literary Men, in which Sir Bulwer Lytton was to enact the part of Cromwell secundus, and decapitate the Marquis of Lansdowne.

Devonshire House Revels.—The title of Sir Bulwer Lytton's amateur play "Not so Bad as we seem," is a singularly happy one; inasmuch as the indifferent acting of the gentlemen, who have mistaken their true position, is in some degree to be excused, when we remember upon what their fame rests, and that they are really "not so bad" as mountebanking would otherwise effectually make them. I. S. L.

To Archæologists and Others.—A droll illustration of the vulgar popularity of Archæology, and of the ridiculous misapprehension of its real objects occurs in an advertisement now appearing in the papers:—"*Porchester Castle.* Archæologists, excursionists, and others, are informed that this delightful remnant of antiquity, with the extensive pleasure-grounds and gardens surrounding the castle, is now open to the inspection of the public, and for the practice of archery, cricket, gymnastics, and other amusements," &c.—See "*Times*," &c. May 17th.

Old Verulam.—It is said that a considerable fragment of the great wall of *Verulamium* is at the present moment being broken up. St. Albans has an Architectural and Archæological Society which was established before the remains of the Roman theatre were destroyed!!

There are 125 Monthly and 14 Weekly literary periodicals in Holland, of which 32 are devoted to Protestant theology, 6 to Catholic theology, 24 to languages, 8 to instruction, 18 to literary criticism, &c.—*New York Literary World, 3rd May.*

Mrs. Howard of Corby printed for the reference of her children and private friends a charming piece of autobiography in 4 vols. as G. W. is informed, at Carlisle, about thirty years since, but it is not to be procured at any price; and he has never seen a copy, although he has heard of two in the possession of distinguished literary ladies—Miss Strickland and Lady Chatterton.

Graphic Relics, as mentioned in your last Number. Can you, or will Messrs. Christie and Manson acquaint your Subscriber who were the purchasers, and at what prices they sold? I have a fancy about old chairs, and am glad to see the subject revived in your *Notes*, which are perfectly current here. I. R.

Bristol.

Berlin Work Patterns were introduced in 1804, by a Mr. Phillipson, and subsequently, in 1810, much improved, by Mad. Wittick.

Mercurii.

The Percy Society is not bankrupt, as has been asserted, in consequence of the Annual Meeting having been postponed from the 1st to the 9th of May. At the eleventh Annual Meeting, held on the latter day, its President, the Rt. Hon. Lord Braybrooke, was in the chair, and the usual business was most satisfactorily transacted. To supply the place of the three members of the Council, retiring by rotation, Robert Bell, Esq., William Chappell, Esq. F.S.A. and the Rev. A. Hume, LL.D. F.S.A., were elected.

The issues of this Society during the past year have been:—

1. An Anglo-Saxon Passion of St. George. From a MS. in the Cambridge University Library. Edited by the Rev. C. Hardwick, M.A.
2. The Loyal Garland; a Collection of Songs of the seventeenth century. Edited by J. O. Halliwell, Esq. F.R.S.
3. Poems and Songs relating to George Villiers, Duke of Buckingham, and his Assassination by John Felton. Edited, with an Introduction, by F. W. Fairholt, Esq. F.S.A.
4. The Canterbury Tales of Geoffrey Chaucer, volume the third. Edited by Thomas Wright, Esq. M.A., F.S.A.; and
5. The Garland of Good-Will. By Thomas Deloney. Edited by James Henry Dixon, Esq. which will be ready for delivery to the members in a few days.

The Publications of the Percy Society maintain a much higher price in the market than those of the Camden, Shakspere, and other similar Associations; and are not, as a complete set, to be procured except by the merest accident.

Literary Memorials.—The two following paragraphs have recently made the round of the newspapers. G. W. knows not from what source the first is derived; the second is acknowledged, but without date for reference:—

A Tribute to the Memory of Dr. Johnson.—It is not generally known that Dr. Johnson was a constant attendant at the service in St. Clement Danes Church, in one of the pews of which he had a seat for many years. The circumstance had almost been forgotten, when the present churchwarden, Mr. Spencer, instituted some inquiries, in order that a tablet should be placed in memory of the great lexicographer. The result was that a correspondence took place between the churchwarden and the Rev. Dr. Croly, which clearly established the fact that the learned doctor always sat in No. 18 pew in the north gallery, and against the large pillar at the end. The churchwarden, the late churchwarden, Mr. Spillman, and one or two other friends, determined that the pillar should bear a testimonial recording the interesting fact; and Dr. Croly was requested to write the inscription. This he cordially agreed to, and on a neat brass tablet, in the place and on the pillar above referred to, will be found the graceful tribute to a great man's memory, from the pen of the eloquent rector of St. Stephen's, Walbrook, Dr. Croly:—"In this pew, and beside this pillar, for many years attended Divine service, the celebrated Dr. Samuel Johnson, the philosopher, the poet, the great lexicographer, the profound moralist, and chief writer of his time. Born 1709; died 1784. In the remembrance and honour of noble faculties, nobly employed, some inhabitants of the parish of St. Clement Danes have placed this memorial, A.D. 1851." This "slight," but lasting memorial, at the cost of the churchwardens, Mr. Spencer, Mr. Spillman, and one or two others, has been placed on the great pillar, and the pew and the identical seat occupied by the "profound moralist," are objects of much interest.

Monument to Ebenezer Elliott.—At a public meeting at the Council Hall, Sheffield, on Thursday last, it was resolved—"That Ebenezer Elliott's long, zealous, and successful advocacy of free trade, and his great genius as a poet, deserve to be publicly acknowledged by the erection of a monument to his memory." A subscription has accordingly been entered into, and £230 have been already subscribed, chiefly in Sheffield.—*Sheffield Times.*

Hogarth's Monument in Chiswick Churchyard.—A Correspondent, referring to *Willis's Current Notes* for February and March last, enquires "what steps have been taken respecting its restoration," and if the "Illustrated London News intend to engrave it?"

G. W. cannot reply to these questions. But it has been frequently engraved, and there is a particular account of it in the "European Magazine," vol. 72. (Sep. 1817), which concludes thus:—"Time will obliterate these inscriptions, and even the pyramid must crumble into dust; but Hogarth's fame is engraven on tablets, which shall have longer duration than monumental marble."

Harry Rowe, the York Trumpeter, and Shakspere.—"*Ebor*" writes, "Your notice of Belzoni, induces me to wish for some particulars of this Editor of Shakspere's Macbeth, published in 1797 at York, 12mo. *with notes and emendations.* He was, I believe, a puppet-show man."

The Publishers to the Public Record Department have not replied to the observations of S. R. upon their letter to G. W. dated the 4th March, printed in *Current Notes*, No. 3. The public will of course draw their own inference.

G. W. thanks his Correspondent, J. C. G. for the following communication:—

"The *Current Notes* for the month would possess more than 'a passing value,' if you were to introduce notices of rare editions of Books, more especially in Theology. In the 'Puritan School' there is sadly wanting some guide."

Laxton Vicarage, Rockingham, 28th April.

Puritans.—

"In progressu Boreali
Ut processi ad Australi
Veni Banbury, O prophanum!
Ubi vidi *Puritanum*
Felem facientem furem
Quia Sabbatho stravit murem:"

are the well known lines of Drunken Barnaby. The story of the Puritan hanging his cat (whether true or invented) was first related by Braithwait in "A Strappado for the Divell," 1615. And Beesley's History of Banbury may be advantageously consulted for notices of Puritanical tracts, many of which are of the greatest possible rarity, and have been for some years eagerly sought after by book collectors in America. At one period in the London market, puritanical works were regarded as waste paper. "Sir Walter Scott has made his Presbyterian preacher at Woodstock (in Cromwell's time) remind his hearers of the superior zeal of the people of Banbury."

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Bather, Rev. Edward, M.A. Sermons, Bournemouth. 15th March.

Cunningham, Captain J. D. "History of the Sikhs." Umballa, India. Aged 38. 28th February.

Hodgson, William (M.D.) History, Language, Botanical Science, Poetry, aged 106. Hemmington Terrace, Islington. 2nd March.

Sharpe, Charles Kirkpatrick. Editor of Biographie, Poet, Antiquary, (see Sir Walter Scott's Diary, 20th Nov. 1825.) Drummond Place, Edinburgh. 17th March.

Smithson, Robert, Proprietor of the "Kentish Gazette." Aged 82. Canterbury. 9th April.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. VI.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [JUNE, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes*, which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

WILLIS'S NOTES, AND THE GUILD OF LITERATURE AND ART.

11th June, 1851.

SIR,—Judging from the general tone of the last number of your *Current Notes*, as also from the prefixed "Notice to Subscribers," I am quite certain that you must feel the responsibility of your position with regard to any statement you may think proper to publish. I will not therefore, like one of your correspondents presume to assign a malicious motive ("malignant purpose" are the awkward words you have admitted into your pages); nor will I offer for your consideration a joke (or piece of smart writing, which in reality may make you smart) to tempt you to commit an act of suicide, or more plainly speaking to cut your own throat by bullying or sneering at, perhaps, some of your best customers, and therefore to you, as a tradesman, your most valuable friends.

I feel, however, equally confident, that in giving publicity to communications received by you, there can be no motive on your part, beyond the knowledge that piquant pieces of literary gossip, whether true or false, are always as eagerly sought for and read as I suppose you desire that your *Price Current of Literature and Catalogue of Second-hand Books* should be. Still it is only fair that after these plain statements, I should acknowledge the impartial conduct of your *Notes* to be such since their commencement, that they cannot—at least they ought not to—give offence in any quarter. For I observe where a mistake or mis-statement has been made, full opportunity and space are afforded for correction, or, if necessary, refutation. Indeed I am of opinion that it is quite as well that all those who stand or would stand prominently before the public—who, therefore, challenge criticism into their characters and conduct throughout life, should *read* what is written about them, instead of, perhaps, hearing imperfectly repeated the slanderous gossip by which their "fair fame" is attempted to be whispered away. For myself, I respect an avowed enemy as much as I must detest a concealed one.

These observations I have been induced to offer chiefly in consequence of two articles which appeared in the last number of your *Notes*, respectively headed, "The Guild of Literature and Art." and "Devonshire House Revels," the latter signed with the initials I. S. L. Who the writers may be, I will not enquire, for I would have such attacks perish as they ought to do, anonymously; but with your permission I will proceed calmly to discuss a question which has occurred to me in consequence, and is one of some importance to Literary and Theatrical men—I mean to those who live by the exercise of their pen and of their mimic powers. And I think I shall be able to trace the cause of considerable irritation to its source, which is, to what I must regard to be the wise and benevolent conduct of our most gracious Queen, who has so nobly countenanced the charitable disposition of Sir Bulwer Lytton and the gentlemen associated with him.

There can be no doubt that many actors, artists, authors and periodical writers, desired to have "a little finger in" Sir Bulwer Lytton's "great pie," and therefore to distinguish themselves, and to be distinguished by, the especial notice of her Majesty. Here I am reminded of a remark of the poet Shenstone, that bad white wine makes good vinegar, and so dull authors make sharp critics. And carrying out this chemical change in the feelings, it may be asserted that none sooner turn sour than those of disappointed vanity. Scott, that great and good man, in one of his letters truly says, "as to literary envy, I agree with you, dear Southey, in believing it was never felt by men who had any powers of their own to employ to better purpose than in crossing or jostling their companions; and I can say with a safe conscience that I am most delighted with praise from those who convince me of their good taste by admiring the genius of my contemporaries."

Now, that ill-natured things should be said with reference to those so highly honoured by our august Sovereign, and whose efforts have been so generously seconded by his Grace the Duke of Devonshire, and so powerfully aided by Miss Burdett

Coutts and Sir Bulwer Lytton, was only to be expected from persons who hold exalted opinions of their own merits and were backed by three other parties:—

First.—By certain Insurance offices, jealous of the preference and support given to "The National Provident Institution."

Secondly.—By professional actors, who considered their legitimate calling as improperly and injuriously interfered with by amateurs; and who found themselves shut out from all participation in a benefit from the Guild of Literature and Art.

Thirdly.—By gentlemen of the periodical press (popularly termed "reporters") who claimed and were unpopularly refused admission to a private mansion, and who were denounced in the Prospectus issued by the Guild as excluded from any of the advantages of its establishment.

This combined hostility have directed their small arms and squibs against Sir Bulwer Lytton as the leader of a little band of high talent inspired with chivalric ardour in the cause of Literature and Art. So that man is singled out for a series of petty and spiteful assaults, who has done more to raise up literary men to his own proud level than any one of our or any other age.

It had long been the desire of Sir Bulwer Lytton, Mr. Charles Dickens, and other leading literary characters, to go beyond the measure of relief which the means of the Royal Literary Fund enabled that most valuable Charity to dispense; and instead of granting small sums of money for temporary use, to relieve permanently the pecuniary anxiety inseparable from Authorship and Art when followed as professions, and to uphold "the Luminaries of Time" in their proper positions, by the grant of honourably earned pensions, especially to those whose providence had given them the strongest claims to consideration.

That the subject of "Alms Houses," with trifling annuities for "men of learning and genius," had long been spoken of among the members of the Royal Literary Fund, is no secret. And there is good reason for believing that Her Majesty's sentiments of sympathy for unfortunate literary men, have been more than tacitly expressed to that Corporate body in approbation of some such Institution. But the majority of members who direct the affairs of the Literary Fund saw, or fancied they saw, in the establishment of an Institution such as Sir Bulwer Lytton projects, certain difficulties and objections, which he does not appear to anticipate.

Much as the practical experience of the General Committee of the Royal Literary Fund is to be respected and deserves consideration, even those who may differ in opinion from Sir Bulwer Lytton must admire the disinterested manner in which he has come forward and raised the question by a free-gift of ground for trying the experiment upon by building not "alms-houses," but "lodges." An experiment which I sincerely hope may answer his expectations and those of the equally disinterested gentlemen who have with so much ability supported him in his views at an enormous sacrifice of time, which to them is more certain of rapidly producing gold than "Californian diggings."

It is impossible to conceive that anything more than the most generous rivalry exists or ever will exist between the Literary Fund and the Guild of Literature and Art. When David Williams, the illustrious founder of the former, proposed to establish an Institution for the relief of "MEN OF LETTERS, *whose studies preclude pecuniary attention, and* ARTISTS *of great merit*," and obtained a private audience from Mr. Pitt upon the subject; that Minister "who perused his proposal with attention, after a short pause, said, 'If I were not Minister I might turn my thoughts to this plan, which appears to me *very important*, but I am already too much engaged.'"

Fortunately for Literary Men, Sir Bulwer Lytton is not too much engaged to consider their wants. And what the Political War Minister of George III. regarded to be very important, it has remained for the Literary Peace Minister of Victoria to effect.

I remain, Sir, your most obedient servant, and

SUBSCRIBER.

Mr. Willis.

ANCIENT METAL DISH.—SIR,—The inscription on the rim of the Chertsey dish (engraved in the last Number of your Notes) appears to be as follows:—

CHÆRTSAĒ PARÆOKO.

Chertsey Parish.

The second word is, without doubt an old French word (*paroice*) badly written. Latin, paræcia, a parish.

The dish was probably an Alms dish.

The projections at the back of the K are put for a cedilla.

T. R. BROWN.
Southwick Vicarage,
May 27th, 1851.

SIR,—The inscription upon the ancient Metal dish figured in the last Number of your Notes, and which your Correspondent R. S. wishes to have explained, has been already engraved in the 30th Volume of the Archæologia, p. 40, (1844), and in Brayley and Britton's History of Surrey, Vol. II. p. 185, (1850). The latter eminent Antiquaries state that these ancient characters are "formed, apparently on the Greek alphabet," but do not attempt to expound them. Mr. Kemble, the distinguished Anglo-Saxon Scholar, in his communication to the Antiquarian Society, calls them Runic, and reads the inscription

GÆTEOH URÆCKO.

But R. S. would do well to consult Mr. Kemble's paper. That gentleman is of opinion that the copper dish on which this puzzling inscription occurs, is the copy of a more ancient one. He, however, assigns its date to the eleventh or twelfth Century.

Trusting that this communication may be acceptable to you, I remain, your humble servant,

W. L. T.

Mr. Willis. 2nd June.

I remember perfectly seeing the ancient Metal dish, which is described in your Notes for this month, when it was exhibited at an Archæological party given by Mr. and Mrs. S. C. Hall, at their residence near Chertsey, on the 1st July last. Several F.S.A.'s were present at that very agreeable meeting, but none of them seemed to be able to unriddle the inscription. So far as I can speak from recollection, your engraving is perfectly correct.

28th May. W.

Harry Rowe, the Puppet-show Man.—"It is quite true," writes a Very Rev. Correspondent, "that an edition of Macbeth '*with notes and emendations*' as stated by 'EBOR.' in your Notes of last Month (*May*) was published by Harry Rowe, Trumpet Major to the High Sheriff of Yorkshire, 2nd Edition, 8vo. 1799; of which the London publishers were Messrs. Vernon and Hood, the latter the father of 'poor Thomas Hood.' The first edition was embellished with the Author's portrait (12mo. 1797). Harry asserts in his preface that, the alterations by him made 'in this play are warranted, from a careful perusal of a very old Manuscript in the possession of my prompter, one of whose ancestors by the mother's side was rush-spreader and candle-snuffer, at the Globe play house, as appears from the following memorandum on a blank page of the manuscript:—

'*This day, March the fourth*, 1598, *received the sum of seven shillings and four pence, for six bundles of rushes and two pair of brass snuffers.*'"

Harry Rowe, the York Trumpeter, was a well known popular character; he died in the poorhouse of that City, on the 2nd October, 1800. He was born in 1726, was a trumpeter to the Duke of Kingston's light horse at Culloden in 1746, and for forty-six years attended the High Sheriffs of Yorkshire, carrying about with him a puppet-show for the amusement of the assizes. M. M. T.

Harry Rowe's Macbeth. T. C. C. refers to that valuable work the *Gentleman's Magazine* for particulars similar to the above (vol. 70, part I.) and adds, "you will there find it stated pretty plainly that Harry Rowe's Macbeth 'was actually the work of an eminent physician at York.'"

6th June.

Sir,—As I do not find either Harry Rowe or his edition of Macbeth noticed in Watt's Bibliotheca Britannica, I must presume that you have been hoaxed by your Correspondent "*Ebor.*"

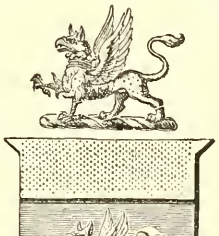
Jokes are very well in their way—but literary jokes may be carried too far, and in a friendly spirit I would warn you to be more careful in future whose communications you give publicity to.

Yours, ANON.

P.S.—My Library possesses, I believe, every edition of Shakespear's Plays, but it does not possess Harry Rowe's Macbeth.

Copies of Harry Rowe's Macbeth have passed through G. W.'s hands.

John Evelyn's Arms. G. Willis is happy to comply with the suggestion of Senex, that Evelyn's Arms may be "more clearly engraved than as they appear on his seal in the last number (V.) of Current Notes." And G. W. at once admits that "the heraldic colouring does not correspond with that at present used by the family, which are Azure, a Griffin passant, Or, a Chief of the last." Whereas, from John Evelyn's seal, the colouring appears to be, Argent, a Griffin passant, proper, a Chief, azure.



Evelyn's Onyx Ring "as mentioned in your last issue of *Notes*, is particularly interesting, as he records in his Diary under date 11th June, 1652, his having been robbed of it when returning from Tunbridge Wells.

"The weather being hot, and having sent my man on before, I rode negligently under favour of the shade, till within three miles of Bromley, at a place called the Procession Oake, two cut-throats started out, and striking with long staves at ye horse, and taking hold of the reines, threw me downe, took my sword and haled me into a deepe thickett some quarter of a mile from the highway, where they might securely rob me, as they soon did. What they got of money was not considerable, but they took two rings, one an emerald with diamonds, the other an onyx, and a pair of buckles set with rubies and diamonds which were of value; and after all, bounde my hands behind me and my feete, having before pulled off my bootes. They then set me up against an oak wth most bloudy threats to cutt my throat if I offered to crie out or make any noise, for they should be within hearing, I not being the person they looked for. *I beyged for my oynx and told them it being engraven with my armes* would betray them, but nothing prevailed." The robbers afterwards tied his horse to a tree,

and left Evelyn himself still bound; but after two hours trying he contrived to slip the cords and obtain his liberty. He then caused the hue and cry to be made and took other measures to trace the stolen property. Within two days he had tidings of all he had lost, except his sword and "some trifles," and among the articles recovered were his two rings. One of the robbers "was afterwards charged with some other crime, but refusing to plead, *was pressed to death*."—Evelyn's Diary, I. pp. 265-268.

Shakespeare's House Re-Mangled.

Sir,—The letter signed "T. J. Pettigrew," in your last "*Current Notes*," appears to me to have for its chief object to inform the public that Mr. Pettigrew "took the chair" (literally) at the meeting held at Stratford in July 1847, on the subject of Shakespeare's house. The intimation that in so doing he performed the duty of Lord Albert Conyngham is not equally correct; for I feel assured that his Lordship would not have placed himself in that position, when it was commonly talked among the people of Stratford and their visitors that there were at least three persons there who ought to have presided before him on such an occasion, namely, the Mayor of Stratford, the President of the Shakesperian Club, and Mr. Lucy of Charlecote. I write merely to remark on the part of the letter in which Mr. Pettigrew denies that he was a collector, &c., that I am one of the persons who paid a subscription to him, and that he *did ask* me to do so—it was represented that the Shakespeare House Committee had not given him the importance which he thought he merited, and that by collecting the subscriptions of his friends and the members of the Association and paying them in, in one large sum, he would show the Committee its error. I never received any receipt, which I supposed was not given in such cases, but I beg to say that neither myself nor any person of whom I have inquired has seen any lists of subscriptions in the newspapers and literary journals, nor have I ever received the printed list which Mr. Pettigrew says "was circulated *to* the Committee and Subscribers." I have no intention of throwing any imputation on the management of this fund, but I have heard a wish pretty generally expressed that a clear statement of all the accounts should be published. I will only add a protest against the notion of your correspondent that letters like these must be intended "to answer some malignant purpose."

Your obedient servant,

London, June 3rd, 1851. N.

The Gateshead Observer of 31st May, which is pleased to regard our "*Current Notes*" as "an interesting accompaniment to Willis's Catalogue of Books," states that "A century ago the amount expended in books, periodicals, and newspapers, did not exceed £100,000 a-year, whereas the sum now so expended annually is calculated at £2,100,000."

The Archdeacon of Cashel has announced to his friends the completion of a valuable work of reference, especially to Ecclesiastical Registries, Consistorial Offices, Cathedral and College Libraries, Record Offices and various other public institutions, upon which he has been for many years engaged, "*Fasti Ecclesiæ Hibernicæ*, the succession of the prelates and members of the Cathedral bodies of Ireland, in 4 vols. 8vo. The design of the work is to exhibit a general view of the extent and structure of the Cathedral Establishments of Ireland, and to furnish enquirers at once with the names and preferments of any occupant of an Irish See, Dignity or Prebend, from the earliest period to the present day.

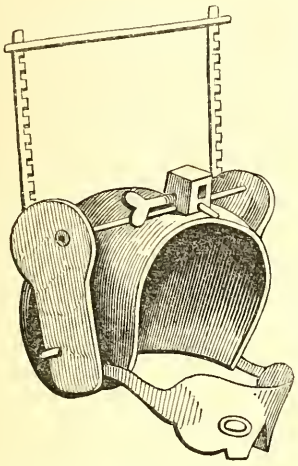
The Archdeacon has not attempted any regular Biography, but where he possessed novel information respecting such men as Bishop Bedell, Primate Newcome and Archbishop Laurence, he has introduced it, and has taken some pains to shew the contributions to literature and science by the Divines of Ireland. He states that in this very useful compilation *one* of his objects has been "to shew that the Cathedrals of Ireland have not nourished merely a set of idle drones, as some of our enemies have been too fond of asserting." He has referred to "Ware's History of the Writers of Ireland," "Chalmers's Biographical Dictionary," "Nichols's Anecdotes," and other such works, wherever they supplied the information. But he is of opinion that no where will be found so full and accurate a list of the published works as he is enabled to give, and he instances the writings of Archbishops Newcome, Laurence, and Whately, Bishops Bedell, Mant, Elrington, and Jebb, Dr. Hinds, Dr. Elrington, Dr. O'Sullivan, &c., many of the lists being obtained by Archdeacon Cotton from the writers themselves.

This laborious work appeared in parts between 1845 and 1850, and was not published by subscription. No more than 250 copies were printed of any part, and not more than 200 copies, which have been produced at an expense of upwards of £600, can find their way into the market.

Museum of National Antiquities.—In an address which that zealous and able antiquary, Dr. Petrie, read before the Royal Irish Academy he observed—"It should be remembered that it is not usually the rich men or the rich institutions that effect the most useful and noble objects, and that there is a poverty of the mind which is more fatal to the success of difficult undertakings than even that of the purse. And it appears to me, that with such small pecuniary means at our disposal, we who have formed such a collection of our ancient literary remains, and still more, who *in our National Museum have done that which has not yet been attempted in wealthy England, have given a striking evidence of this fact.*"

Obsolete Punishments.—"I inclose a sketch of a similar instrument of torture to the one illustrated in your April Number. This specimen is at present in the Guildhall, Worcester, and our local historian Noake, in his 'Worcester in the Olden Times,' gives an engraving of it and the following note.

"A curious instrument of punishment probably used for a similar purpose as that just mentioned ('Scold's bridle,') may still be seen hung up with some armour in Worcester Guildhall. The following is from a sketch taken by me a few months ago."



"The head was inserted in this helmet; and the visor which is here represented as hanging down, being connected with the toothed uprights was drawn up or down by means of a key winding up the end of the rod which passes immediately across the top of the helmet, and which rod is furnished with cogs at the end to fit into the teeth of the uprights."

"The visor was thus drawn up tightly so as to completely darken the eyes and cover the nose. The little square box with a hole to which a screw is affixed at the side, was probably intended to receive the end of a pole fixed in a wall, from which the patient was thus made to stand out, though certainly not 'in relief.' These instruments as well as cucking or cuckold stools were in use in nearly all towns. The present specimen is probably of the date of Henry VIIth's reign."

Yours very obediently,
William Mence.

Mr. Willis. Worcester, 20th May, 1851.

Note on Athenæus.—"Mr. H. G. Bohn, in his Catalogue of Greek and Latin Classics, mentions—"Athenée, Banquet des Savans, traduit par Lefebure de Villebrune"—as the only translation of Athenæus; it is true we have no English version of that curious and interesting author, but there is another French version, although rare, by that indefatigable translator, Michael de Marolles, Abbé of Villeloin, and which contains a most exquisite copper-plate of the said translator, but unfortunately there is letter-press printed on the back of it.

"Bayle says he never saw a copy of this work, and mentions it as very rare and dear; some have stated that twenty-five copies only were printed: it is more probable, that what were not sold were withdrawn. Only one copy is known on large paper. The translation is bad, and only curious from its rarity: it contains, however, several valuable indexes of the proper names and principal matters; a chorographical table, a list of authors, philosophers, physicians, historians, orators, and others, cited in the fifteen books; a table of the poets, and the number of times each is quoted in the work. The writer of this note has a copy." M.

Egypt. *Tiverton, June* 12, 1851.

Sir—I recently saw in a Newspaper a paragraph, to the effect that "the British Museum had just bought a copy of the great French Work on Egypt." Being rather interested in that country, would you have the kindness, in the next Number of your *Current Notes*, to inform me whether this is the large work published by the *Baron Denon*, or another publication?

Your obedient servant,
Ægyptiacus.

In reply, we beg to inform our Correspondent, that the work he inquires about is totally distinct from that of the Baron Denon, the materials for which were, however, collected by that learned antiquary while forming one of the Scientific Commission sent to Egypt by Napoleon for the purpose of investigating the ancient and modern state of that country. Like all the works of that extraordinary man, it was executed on a scale of magnificence which throws every other production of the kind into the shade. The engravings, occupying ten volumes of the largest size, are truly colossal, some of them measuring upwards of three feet in length. The letter-press is comprised in twenty-six volumes, octavo size. It is truly an Egyptian Encyclopædia, intended to comprise every known fact illustrative of the state of Egypt, in all its relations, its civil history, arts, sciences, and geographical situations. In it are described, firstly, the Temples, Palaces, Tombs, and all the ancient Monuments; the Manuscripts, the Relics of Astronomy, and paintings exhibiting scenes of Private Life, Historic Sculpture, &c. Secondly, the Modern Buildings, and every important fact relative to the present state of Egypt. Thirdly, the Animal, Vegetable, and Mineral branches. Fourthly, the Geographical Portion. C. E.

JH Monograms.—Answer to R. P. (*Elgin.*) If this monogram is meant for I.H.S. probably the engraving is intended for the head of Christ instead of a Jew; but it certainly at first sight looks more like I.H. W. M.

May 27, 1851.

Sir,—The Monogram [*above*] given in the *Current Notes* for May, is that of an amateur of the name of James Hazard, who lived principally abroad,

and whose extensive Collection of Prints and Drawings was sold at Brussels in 1789. He etched upwards of seventy plates from drawings by the old Masters in his own possession. He etched a very good copy from the fine print of the Goldweigher of Rembrandt, which is mentioned by Bartsch in his Catalogue of that Artist's works.

Hazard made use of another Monogram of this form, which will be found on the Shield of one of the Soldiers in the Rape of Helen, an etching he made from a drawing by Raffaelle.

I beg to remain, Sir, your most obedient servant,
W. H. C.

Sir,—I perceive that it is stated in the April Number of your *Current Notes*, by your Correspondent J. R. that Monograms were in fashion "from about 1710 to 1740, or 1750." Now I have a little work entitled—

"A book of Cyphers or Letters reversed, being a work very pleasant and usefull as well for gentlemen as all sorts of Artificers, Engravers, Painters, Carvers, Chacers, Embroiderers, &c. where you may find a cypher for any name whatsoever curiously composed after the newest mode by

Jeremiah Marlow.

N. Glascock, sculp. London, Printed for W. Rogers, at the Sun, against St. Dunstan's Church in Fleet Street, 1683."

Yours obediently, S. C. R.

Michael Angelo.—Perhaps some of your numerous correspondents can resolve for me the query if the signature I have in my possession is one of Michael Angelo the celebrated painter. It is in an Aldine edition of the works of Oribasius, printed at Paris, 1555. In some of the Biographies of that celebrated character, mention is made of his being in France about that period. The signature carries with it every mark of being genuine as to age, and as we are pretty certain that Anatomy formed one of his principal studies it is not improbable the book was once his property; as near as I can copy it the style is as follows—

Michalis Angeli Angelic.

Michael Angelo died, 1563, eight years after the date of the above book.

C. Clay, M.D., Manchester.

G. Willis *regrets that he cannot engrave this signature in fac-simile, but he will forward Dr. Clay's communication to a party likely to afford him the information he desires.*

G. W. takes this opportunity of stating to the Subscribers for his Current Notes, *that however grateful to them for the trouble they have, in many instances, so kindly taken, he cannot pledge himself to engrave all the sketches forwarded to him. At the same time should any of his Subscribers desire to have an illustration appear with their communication, he will be happy to get it executed for them in the best manner and upon the most reasonable terms—and before doing so, will acquaint them with the expense, which seldom exceeds a few shillings. The moderate price at which* Willis's Current Notes *are regularly circulated by post,* (three shillings per annum) *the Stamp duty being one shilling and the paper duty also a serious consideration, does not permit of illustrations being given by him as freely as he could wish, without exposing himself to positive loss.*

The Society of Antiquaries.—In your *Current Notes* (May), page 38, your Correspondent (Q.) in reference to the 100th Anniversary of the Society of Antiquaries, in 1851, asks how it is that the Seal of the Society dates its commencement in 1717? In explanation I have before me a quarto Pamphlet, by John Fenn, Esq. M.A. and F.A.S., entitled, "Three Chronological Tables exhibiting a state of the Society of Antiquaries of London, from its first rise in the 14th Elizabeth (1572), to its revival in the beginning of the 17th century; and from thence to its incorporation in 1751;" so that the anniversary was the commemoration of the 100th year of its Incorporation. In reality, the Society has existed 279 years, *truly an Antiquarian Society.*

C. Clay, M.D.,
Mr. Willis. Manchester.

Your Correspondent Q. may find the following statement in the third volume of a very pleasant account of London, which appeared under the title of the "Percy Histories" in 1824, and for procuring which little work for me I feel very much obliged to you. W. B.

Dublin, 4th June.

"No class of scientific inquirers have been subjected to so much ridicule as Antiquaries, whom Poets, Novelists, and Dramatists, have delighted to laugh at, and yet their pursuits are neither absurd nor unprofitable.

"The Society of Antiquaries is one of the oldest literary or scientific associations in London. It dates its origin towards the close of the sixteenth century, and enumerates among its founders, Camden, Stowe, Archbishop Parker, and Sir Robert Cotton; but it was not until the year 1751, that the Society was Incorporated. Queen Elizabeth and James I., had both been applied to, to form a College of English Antiquaries, but they refused their consent, and the Society was left to struggle with neglect and even ridicule.

"The Society consists of a President and Council, annually elected, and an unlimited number of members or fellows who are admitted on very easy terms."

Council of the Society of Antiquaries.—Perhaps F.S.A. who has asserted so offensively in your Current Notes for last month, that the present Council of this Society are "composed chiefly of gentlemen unknown in the Society for their literary and antiquarian contributions to its transactions"—will sustain his statement by forwarding to you

a list of the present Council, with the number of their communications prefixed to each name? I am quite certain your impartiality would at once print F.S.A.'s communication, and permit the public to judge whether the British Museum has been fairly or unfairly attacked through your medium. B. M.

Doctor Maginn—contributed many papers to Blackwood's Magazine, among others the story of "the Man in the Bell," which was quoted by Lord Brougham in one of his speeches in the House of Commons. It appeared in the November No. for 1821, and was founded on the adventure of a singular character in the belfry of the Cathedral of Cork, (Maginn's native city,)—a writing master, named Fitzgerald, who published in 1783, a rude Chronicle of events, entitled "the Cork Remembrancer," now not to be procured.—

The writings of Maginn, although they well merit preservation, have not been collected—they are scattered through a variety of periodicals; but I think no one would dispute the copyright if a competent Editor were to undertake the task. A Memoir of "the Doctor" may be found in the *Dublin University Magazine* for January, 1844, where several brilliant contributions to periodical literature are pointed out, but I cannot say what degree of credit is to be attached to the statements there made, some of which must be incorrect.

R. D. R.

The Copyright Question.—The conflicting decisions of the Court of Queen's Bench and the Exchequer respecting Copyright in England of Foreigners residing abroad, has occasioned no little stir in the book market.

It is understood that an appeal to the House of Lords has been resolved upon with a view to the final settlement of this important literary question.

Lady Morgan has addressed a letter to Cardinal Wiseman in answer to his remarks upon her Ladyship's statement regarding St. Peter's Chair, which appeared so long ago as 1833, but with which Lady Morgan was not acquainted until lately. She declares the authorities for the assertion made in the second volume of her *Italy*, that the Chair in question bears an Arabic inscription, to the effect that "*There is but one God, and Mahomet is his Prophet!*" to be no less eminent than the Baron Denon and Champollion, and to avoid further controversy, fairly says—"Produce the *Chair*."

Mr. Anthony Rich, Jun., has followed in her Ladyship's wake, by the publication of "*the Legend of St. Peter's Chair*," in which he has handled with considerable ability and learning the statements of Cardinal Wiseman, which are said to have been derived from a treatise in Latin, written by Fabei about the middle of the last century.

An engraving of the Chair is given in Mr. Rich's book.

Hogarth's Tomb.—See the *Art Journal* for last month.

How to value a Library.—The *Gentleman's Magazine* for this month, mentions a Durham Cabinet-maker and Upholsterer named Thompson, who was also an Auctioneer and Appraiser, in which "latter capacity he was in the habit of putting a value upon a library of books by measuring with his rule the space which they occupied on the shelves."

Book Auctions were by no means common during the seventeenth century. They became fashionable at its close, and the death of Dr. Francis Bernard (who was an eminent physician and an ancestor of mine) made them important.—His library was sold in 1698, and produced no less a sum than £1,600.

Upon this occasion, a well known collector of books, being recognized in the crowd which attended the sale, was appealed to by the auctioneer, "*Arch*" Millington as he was called, who remarked that there was an important observation written in the volume he was about to sell in Dr. Bernard's own hand. The consequence of this intimation produced a spirit of rivalry among the bidders; but when the book was knocked down at a high price, the purchaser read to his astonishment "*I have perused this book, and it is not worth a farthing.*" F.B.B.

Legal Proceedings respecting the Mysteries of Book Manufacture, occurred in the Secondaries Court, some few years since, of which I send you the following particulars. Mr. Huish, was the Plaintiff, and Mr. Williams of Paternoster-row, a bookseller, the defendant. The Plaintiff had undertaken to translate a German work by Spindler, bearing the *selling* title of "The Avenger, or the Oath of Blood." When some score or more "Numbers" of the English translation had been published, the translator and the publisher quarrelled, and the former proceeded against the latter for a balance of £19. 13*s*. On investigation it appeared that Spindler had never written any work entitled "The Avenger, or the Oath of Blood," but that he had written "The Natural Son." This work had been translated by Lord Albert Conyngham, and Mr. Huish's translation of "The Avenger," was nothing more than an appropriation, with some disguise, of his Lordship's translation of "The Natural Son."

A Mr. List, who was examined for the Defendant, stated that he had continued "the translation" after the quarrel with Mr. Huish.

Mr. James, Counsel for the Plaintiff, inquired if Mr. List knew German. "No," he replied. "Then," said Mr. James, "how could you translate Spindler's work?" "Oh," rejoined Mr. List, "I abridged the translation of Lord Albert Conyngham!"

The jury gave their verdict in favour of the Plaintiff, probably thinking that Mr. Williams had no reason to refuse payment when he had availed himself of the stolen goods.

Sir Walter Scott and "*the Author of Waverley*" are synonymes in our literature. In the introduction to his Ivanhoe, Scott says that the name "was suggested by an old rhyme," recording the names of three manors forfeited by the ancestor of the celebrated Hampden for striking the Black Prince a blow with his racket when they quarrelled at tennis :—

> 'Tring, Wing, and Ivanhoe
> For striking of a blow
> Hampden did forego
> And glad he could escape so.'

Adding—"The word suited the author's purpose in two material respects,– for first, it had an ancient English sound; and secondly, it conveyed no indication of the nature of his story." Indeed it is well known that Scott was particularly fastidious in the selection of names and localities for his fictions, and this being the case I feel some curiosity to ascertain why he should have fixed on that of *Waverley*, which as I have before observed is now identified with his own name.

In his first chapter of that Novel he states, "The title of this work has not been chosen without the grave and solid deliberation which matters of importance demand from the prudent. Even its first or general denomination was the result of no common research or selection," &c. R. B.

The Memorial to Professor Smyth.—In the north aisle of the nave of Norwich Cathedral is a stained glass window, executed by Mr. Warrington of London, with the following inscription on a marble slab beneath : —

> "THIS MONUMENTAL WINDOW
> IS DEDICATED BY HIS FRIENDS
> TO THE MEMORY OF
> WILLIAM SMYTH, ESQ.
> WHO DIED IN THIS CITY ON THE 24TH DAY
> OF JUNE, 1849. AGED 83 YEARS.

"This good and distinguished man filled for forty years the chair of Modern History in the University of Cambridge. Gifted with eloquence and a poet's mind, his affectionate and indulging temper, his knowledge and judgment, the mingled earnestness and playfulness of his disposition, and the moderation of his character and opinions, gave a peculiar charm and value to his instruction; and the statesman, no less than the student, listened with delight to his historical lectures. He lived and died a Christian, and, by his work on the Evidences of Christianity, composed in his declining years, he endeavoured to impress on the mind of others those momentous truths which were deeply engraven on his own."

"The Rev. J. H. Marsden, B.D. has been appointed to the Disney Professorship of Classical Antiquities in the University of Cambridge mentioned in your Notes for April last, p. 30."

Jacob Grimm—the distinguished German philologist, is engaged in the study of the Irish language, with a view to the comparison of it with other European languages.

G. W. thanks Mercurii, *Great Yarmouth*, for his kind note and offer of service, which want of space obliges him to decline. He respectfully recommends his "well wisher" to complete his A. B. C. arrangement, which, when finished, may be acceptable to many publishers, and certainly would be a work of most useful reference to the compiler himself, particularly if he recorded the authorities upon which some of the assertions are made.

The Collar of Torture exhibited at the Lord Mayor's Converzasione on the 4th June, and which attracted so much attention, is engraved, and by permission of its noble owner will appear in the July Number of G. W.'s *Current Notes*.

Dates of Old Books—*Roman Characters*. (W. R. L. *York, June* 2.) Received—Must stand over.

Bismark's *Lectures on the Tactics of Cavalry*. There are two translations into English—one by Major Johnston, another with Notes by Major N. Ludlow Beamish.

T. F. D. C. Works on Entomology, received.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Dalyell, Sir John Graham, Bart. Science and History. Aged 77. Edinburgh. 7th June.

Newcomb, Richard, Esq. Proprietor of the "Stamford Mercury." Aged 67. Stamford. 26th March.

Nicolas, Rear-Admiral John Toup, C.B. and K.H. "An Inquiry into the Causes which have led to our late Naval Disasters (1814)." Aged 64. Plymouth. 1st April,

Pelham, Captain, the Hon. Dudley Anderson Worsley, R.N. and M.P. Boston. Pamphlet on the condition of the Labouring Classes. Aged 39. Motcombe Street, Belgrave Square. 13th April.

Reid, Rev. James Seaton, D.D. Professor of Ecclesiastical and Civil History in the University of Glasgow. History of the Presbyterian Church in Ireland, &c. (Vol. I. 1834, Vol. II. 1837). This valuable work remains unfinished. At Lord Mackenzie's, near Edinburgh. 2nd April.

Sheil, The Right Hon. Richard Lalor. Drama and Politics. Aged 59. Florence. 25th May.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

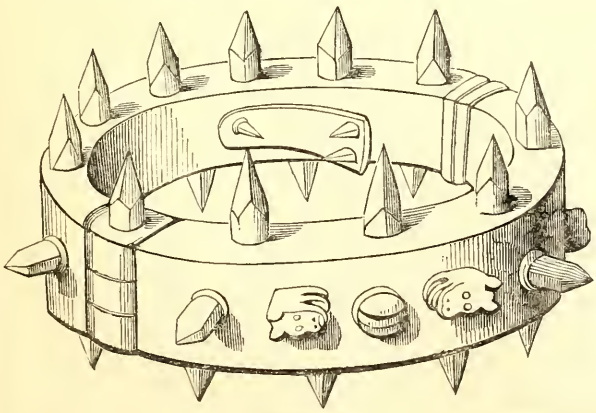
No. VII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—Shakspere. [July, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. Willis gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes*, which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

Obsolete Punishments were mentioned in G. W.'s *Current Notes* for March last, with a slight acknowledgment to the *Leicester Chronicle*. This produced in the April number communications from no less than three correspondents, C. R., F. W. F., and A., which were illustrated by a woodcut of "the Scold's Bridle," taken from Brayley and Britton's valuable "History of Surrey." In the June number of Willis's *Notes*, a variation of the Scold's Bridle or "the Branks" was engraved from a drawing of one at present hanging up in the Guildhall of Worcester, kindly forwarded by William Mence, Esq. of that City.

And G. W. is now by permission of the noble owner, enabled to place on record among his notes an accurate representation of



The Collar of Torture which was exhibited at the Lord Mayor of London's remarkable Conversazione on the 4th of last month, respecting which G. W. has received among other communications the following.

"Judges, Mayors, Aldermen, and Magistrates, were wont to regard the exhibition of such cruel iron machinery of office as things that would have disgraced a Civic party as much as golden collars of SS's were believed to decorate an assemblage of the kind. But the present Lord Mayor has dared to think and to act for himself. Who before had ever heard of any thing but a dinner and ball at the Mansion House, where dress coats were liberally "basted"—to use a culinary phrase—with mock-turtle soup—and ices were devoured with shillings from lack of spoons. Where City slang—which was intended to pass current for wit—and vulgar affectation which was considered to be gentility elbowed its way, through a miscellaneous crowd of people."

"How different was the Musgrove Meeting. There were to be found Gentlemen the representatives of Science, Literature and Art, not of England alone, but of the wide world—quietly gliding through the spacious apartments—moderately partaking of refreshments bountifully provided—thoughtfully examining the objects arranged for their inspection, and freely communicating one to the other their sentiments—not seeking to pick up from servants bits of information to be feverishly hashed up and served to-morrow with the bill of fare in a morning Newspaper for the instruction of a reading public.

"And here it was that this horrid instrument of ancient torture became exposed to public view—to public opinion and to general execration. It was placed beside the gloves that William III. rode in at the Boyne, and the embroidered Velvet Cap that Nell Gwynn plucked from the brow of Charles and flung out of the window—not far away were the daggers that Blood wore when he stole the Crown of England, and literally a fleet of the Models that defended it—not however, a Model fleet for the present Wooden Walls of Old England. Here were specimens of Glass Manufacture, contrasted with which the proudest works of Venice, could not bare comparison, and opposed to the brilliancy of which the whole plate of the City of London would have looked dull. But amid all these interesting historical associations and gorgeous exhibitions, nothing seemed to fix itself

so much upon the common mind both of the illustrious Foreigners and Englishmen present as this Collar of Torture.

"Group after group inspected it; and some even doubted its reality—could such things be? Could they have been tolerated in England at any period since the Norman Conquest? These were among the questions asked. Yet there can be no doubt that such iron collars were used as a mode of punishment in England within the last half century. The description given of a case in the Norwich workhouse in 1805, is perfectly frightful as to the use of these instruments of torture. The statement emanated from the benevolent James Neild, and although an attempt was made to contradict it—his statement as to all the main facts remains unimpeached, and this mode of punishment was probably in consequence given up.

One boy particularly attracted Mr. Neild's attention.

"He had round his neck an iron-collar called a yoke with four projecting prongs, secured by a large clumsy iron padlock. Upon examining his neck, it was slightly galled; upon one leg was a strong iron ring fastened near the ancle like a hand-cuff, to which was attached a massy chain about four feet five inches long, at the end of this chain was a log of wood two feet two inches in circumference, weighing altogether *twenty-two pounds*. With this incumbrance he slept every night; but during the hours of work in the day the chain and log were taken off, that he might have the use of his legs to spin; but the yoke round his neck had never been taken off during three weeks in which he had been in this state of punishment. As soon as he had finished his work the chain and log were regularly fastened on his leg, and in that state he passed the night. Every Sunday he was locked up by himself all the day with his irons on. He told me in the presence of the mistress of the house, that this punishment was to continue for six months, and this was not contradicted by her. He complained that the ring had made his leg sore, and on taking his stocking off there appeared some scabs and slight excoriations upon it. He was twelve years of age; his name William Rayner; his father dead, his mother run away.

"Under these circumstances," continues Mr. Neild, "I requested the worshipful the Mayor would have the goodness to order his irons to be taken off, and that he would oblige me with permission to take them to his house."

"It was told me that this boy had been frequently sent to the City-bridewell for petty thefts, and that he was *incorrigible*. This, however, did not turn out to be the truth; for the next morning I went to the Bridewell, and, together with the keeper, examined the books for ten years past, when it appeared that this boy was sent to Bridewell for two days, the 18th April, 1801, for running away from the workhouse, not for theft; and the keeper told me, he never was in custody there before or since. That he is not *incorrigible*, I am inclined to believe, for he had both sense and gratitude to come running after the Mayor and myself and thank us feelingly for his deliverance."

HUMANITAS.

NELL GWYNNE.—In a report on the Poultry Compter in 1811, it is mentioned, that the prisoners received sixty-five penny loaves every eight weeks, the gift of Eleanor Gwynne.

THE CHERTSEY METAL DISH.

11, Montpelier Square, Brompton,
July 7, 1851.

SIR,—As I find the Chertsey Dish is a subject of some interest to your readers, may I offer a remark thereupon, the result of a personal inspection a few days since?

The dish is now in the keeping of Mrs. Wetton, the widow of the gentleman whose name is mentioned in your first communication; he was a diligent collector of all matters connected with Chertsey; and formed a large topographical volume on the subject. It is very likely, however, that the dish may soon leave Chertsey, or even pass into strange hands, as Mrs. W. talks of her readiness to part with an object for which she feels no interest. I may remark that it was early in the last century when it came into the hands of the Wetton family, therefore your note in the May number saying that it had been with them "more than two hundred years," is incorrect. Nor is the engraving a correct copy of the inscription; the fourth letter is not well delineated, it should have a square and not a lozenge shaped opening in its upper part; the lower part should be less angular; and the first O toward the end of the inscription is certainly a C, as it is given in Mr. Kemble's Paper, (Archæologia, vol. 30.)

The dish has a much more modern look than its presumed date would lead us to expect; indeed, the first impression it gives, is, that it is of comparatively recent fabrication. Considering the trouble all persons have to decypher the inscription, and the exceedingly dissimilar translations given; I have strong doubts of all; particularly as a large amount of argument and conjecture is used by Mr. Kemble to substantiate his reading. It would ill become me to dispute with so able a scholar, but I cannot help thinking it the work of two, or at utmost, three centuries since; and that the inscription has yet to be correctly read, by some person familiar with the northern languages as written by the various tribes of the one great family on the shores of the Baltic.

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
F. W. FAIRHOLT.

To Mr. Willis.

MASSINGER.—G. W. cannot supply a complete copy of Massinger's works, nor can any one in the trade. Upon the receipt of the letter from his New York correspondent, he applied to the Percy Society on the subject, and received in return the very liberal vote of the Council of the 6th February, which

was gratefully acknowledged in his Current Notes for the same month. But although permission was given to G. W. to print from the wood blocks of the Percy Society, no authority was given by the vote of Council to allow of casts being taken, or permission to reprint the play of "Believe as you List."

SIR WALTER SCOTT ON CAVALRY EQUIPMENTS.

(*Original letter to T. Crofton Croker, Esq.*)

MR. WILLIS,

The mention in the last Number of your Notes of *Bismark's Lectures on the tactics of Cavalry*, reminds me that I was requested by Major Beamish to present Sir Walter Scott with a copy of his translation. The receipt of it was acknowledged in the inclosed characteristic epistle, which as it is unpublished you have my permission to copy and print;—but as I value the original I will thank you to return it to me.

I think I sent or promised to send a transcript of it to Mr. Lockhart when he was writing the life of Scott, but for some reason or cause which I now forget, he did not use it.

Should you print this letter, I hope none of your subscribers will consider it "inserted" among your Notes "to answer some malignant purpose," which in making this or any other communication to you, I entirely disavow, although the publication of Sir Walter Scott's feelings of martial ardour may be as little acceptable to Members of the Peace Association, as his observations on the cuirass and hussar cap, agreeable to the authorities at the Horse Guards.

T. C. C.

MY DEAR SIR,—I am favoured with your letter, and received at the same time Major Beamish's valuable present. I assure you that when you say it is fitter for my son than for me, I scorn your words, for I was an officer of Cavalry Yeomanry, videlicet before he was born, and relish the theory as much as I used to like in former days the parade and the march, the tramp of the horses, and the angry rattle and ring of the steel sheaths, which may match the ringing of your fairy bridles. We had never it is true a more formidable encounter than with coalliers and old women. But if Boney and his invincibles did not come to share the fate of

"— Alexander King of Macedon,
Who conquered all the world but Scotland alone,"

why it was not my fault. We dreamt of him, looked for him, and by our lady hoped for him. So you see I am in reality *un vieux routier*. I had then a good seat on horseback; have ridden more than a hundred miles a day to join my corps on a sudden alarm, and in fact taught my son to ride when he was but seven years old. Now age has clawed me in its clutch I still like the crack of the whip as well as an old sportsman can, who must always hear it with a sort of regret for the years and the strength that have gone far away. But seriously, I could not have had a more agreeable subject of study than Major Beamish's work, and I request you will make my best thanks acceptable to him.

I have just glanced at the book, but cannot help saying how much I agree with Major Beamish in doubting the propriety of introducing any defensive armour among our troops, especially as they have contrived to make the cuirasses so ill-formed and insufficient. It is very odd that eager as we are to avail ourselves of all foreign fashions in our uniforms and equipments, we always miss the point of utility. The hussar cap for example, is according to the real Hungarian form, an useful thing—the long triangular flap which hangs down like a jelly bag, consists in a double slip of cloth, which when necessary fold round the soldier's face one on each side, and form a comfortable night cap. In our service one single slip is left to fly and dangle about the muns, not a great ornament by day, and totally useless by night. I could say a great deal about pistols, broadswords, and carabine, but I bridle in my old war-horse (peace be with him), and spare you.

* * * * *

Always, my dear Sir,
Your truly obliged and faithful,
WALTER SCOTT.

Edinburgh, 7th July, 1827.

MONOGRAMS.—R. P. (*Elgin*) 28th June, writes, "I am much obliged to your correspondent W.H.C. for his information respecting my old etching. W. M.'s suggestion is far from right, for the head is of an old man with a long beard.

"On the subject of Monograms among the nobility, I noticed a case lately on the ruins of Huntley Castle in Aberdeenshire; under each of the windows near the top, on the principal side left standing is this Monogram in letters about a foot long, with a Marquis' Coronet above them. The letters are plainly G.S.M.H. and the solution of them is also, in my opinion, to be traced from an inscription in similar letters above and below the windows. Above, "George *Gordon* first Marquis of Huntly." Below, "Henrietta *Stewart* Marquesse of Huntly." They are, thus, the initials of their surnames and title. If this is of any service in your notes, you are welcome to it."

MONOGRAMS.

SIR,—As your correspondent S. C. R. has by his letter published in your June Notes, shown that Monograms were fashionable in the reign of James II. I think the inclosed which is traced from a gold coin of the unfortunate Mary Queen of Scotland, will convince you that Monograms, were in popular use at least one hundred and twenty years prior to that period. R. I. C.

G. W. does not engrave this Monogram which clearly contains all the letters in MARIA REGINA, as it may be found figured in Lindsay's "View of the Coinage of Scotland," Plate 14, *No.* 48,—*from a Lion in the British Museum.*

R. S. is thanked for his reference.

Egypt.—Referring to the letter of Ægyptiacus, in your *Current Notes* for June, 1851, p. 45, I beg to inform you that the British Museum has long possessed a copy of "the Great French work on Egypt," which was placed for reference on one of the shelves of the reading room of that establishment. The Royal Society of Literature possesses an incomplete copy, so that I think it probable that there was some mistake in the Newspaper paragraph alluded to by your correspondent. T. W.

Egyptian Hieroglyphics.—Before engraving that sent by T. R. B. (Southwick Vicarage, 2nd July,) it would be desirable that G. W. should be in possession of the promised interpretation, as it may be necessary for him subsequently to engrave the phonetic characters given by Gliddon, p. 16, &c. if demanded in reply.

And G. W. would respectfully refer his correspondent to No. VI. of his *Current Notes*, p. 46. In the present case of illustration the cost would not exceed eighteen pence.

Chairs.

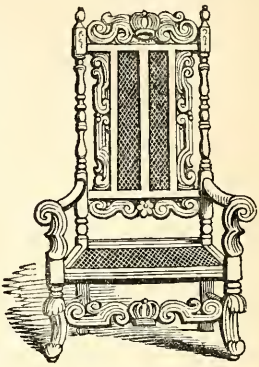
8th July.

Sir,—In the January number of your Notes there is a woodcut of the Electoral Chair of Saxony, which was sold by auction at Colby House, Kensington, for twenty-one guineas, and which representation appears to have been copied from "*the Builder*."*

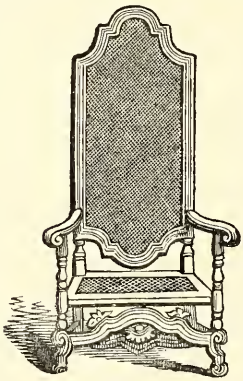
In your February Number, p. 14, you have given two cleverish epigrams signed B. and P. upon a chair.—I do not myself much relish this kind of small-beer wit; and in your April Number, an enquiry was made about Sir Joshua Reynolds', and Sir Thomas Lawrence's Chair, which Messrs. Christie and Manson might have answered.—I am certain it would have answered their purpose had they done so—or any one in your employment, by asking a civil question, could easily have replied to my question.

The object, however, of this communication is neither to complain of the manner in which your Notes are conducted, nor to set up Lady Morgan as a goddess of infallible authority upon St. Peter's chair. I would rather thank you for calling attention to the subject of Chairs, which are a hobby of mine, with their associations. It is one respecting which I have always felt considerable interest, and upon which although so much has been written discursively, so little can be obtained in a collected form.

In my opinion, few things possess more character than a chair, and they should therefore be an especial subject of study for an artist, certainly quite as much as costume—but I will proceed to illustrate my idea by inclosing sketches of two chairs in my possession, which you are at liberty to have engraved at my expense for your Notes; and they both possess considerable historic interest. No. 1 formed part of the furniture of Basing House, the gallant defence of which, by the Marquis of Winchester in the royal cause, is a memorable incident in the unhappy times of Charles I. This cavalier chair is richly ornamented, and the object of the whole design seems to be emblematic of support and protection to the Crown of England which appears above in the centre of the back, and below in the front cross rung. How invaluable the knowledge of this fact would have been to my friend Charles Landseer.



No. 1.



No. 2.

No. 2. there can be little doubt was made for Henry Cromwell. In it may have sat his father "The Protector." In it may also have sat a not less anxious father, the illustrious Edmund Burke. I bought it, or rather the debris in 1837, at a broker's shop near the Clock House, in the King's Road, Chelsea. The brother of this broker had purchased the chair some years previously at a sale of furniture in Cromwell House, Old Brompton, where there can be little doubt that Henry Cromwell resided, as his marriage on the 10th May, 1653, is recorded in the parish register of Kensington. The puritanical plainness of this chair, accords with the most fashionable taste of that period, all the ornamental part being concealed by the dress when the chair is occupied. In Cromwell House, the only son of Edmund Burke, died in 1794.

I was told that the seat of this chair, the original canework of which I have had restored, was stuffed when bought by the broker's brother, and that in examining the seat after the purchase, three or four "old coins" were found secreted in the stuffing, which led to pulling the chair to pieces—the state in which I had it. An Amateur.

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* G. W. begs leave to observe, that the cut which appeared in his Notes, was from an original sketch.

THE PEDLAR AND HIS DOG.—IN LAMBETH CHURCH—Although repeatedly engraved, G. W. inserts at the particular request of his correspondent, who writes as follows:—

"The story goes that this window of stained glass was given to the Church by a person for permission to have his dog buried in the Church yard beside him. In return for which favour he gave for charitable purposes a certain piece of ground not far from where Westminster-bridge was subsequently built—and which gift is now called "Pedlar's Acre." This valuable piece of ground appears to have been in the possession of the parish in 1504, and at present the management is controlled by an Act of Parliament passed in 1826 (7 Geo. IV. cap. 46.)

The glass window is recorded to have been repaired by the Churchwardens in 1607, and replaced by the present one in 1703; and I have seen it stated somewhere that the Pedlar in question was an ancestor of mine who left a large landed property to other parishes beside Lambeth to be distributed like Alleyn, the founder of Dulwich College, among his poor relations and namesakes—but there is so much difficulty in tracing the pedigree of any one bearing my popular Christian and Surnames, that I know not how to proceed to establish my claim.

Yours respectfully,
JOHN SMITH.

P.S.—If you have any book that can assist me about "Alderman Smith's Charities," I will feel obliged by your letting me know the price. I am told he was called "Dog Smith."

ORIGINAL POETRY.

AN ODE *written while waiting for a Margate steamer*, by a Subscriber who left London in bad health, and returned to its crowd, bustle, and noise, after a short sojourn at Herne Bay, perfectly renovated.

O! peerless Pier,
Long as a year,
Adieu,
To you.
I hobbled here;
And here, [illegible] a tear
It will intrude
Of gratitude.
Your cheer
And beer
Have made me rude.
And now I go,
Not as I came,
Lame,
Which I might name
"So—So."—
Herne Bay has sent
Me out of Kent;
Quite well
As by a spell.
HERNE BAY,
I say,
FAREWELL. [*bis*] Q.

THE BREECHES BIBLE.—The Rev. E. S. T. writes—"I have never been able to procure a perfect copy of this. What is the first edition of it, and what does it when perfect contain?"

THE COPPER COINS OF ENGLAND. A compliance with the request of EL KHALIL, would occupy more space in G. W.'s *Current Notes* than can be devoted to a subject not of general interest. G. W. will with pleasure insert any brief enquiry or enquiries respecting the English Copper Coinage, but cannot undertake to print a series of questions to verify the statements of Snelling, Ruding, Simon, &c. He, however, humbly conceives that the Numismatic Society would readily publish in their Journal the communication which has been made to him, and as it would thus find its way into the hands of the most eminent coin collectors, would better effect the object of his correspondent. The Numismatic Society meet at 41, Tavistock Street, Covent Garden, and the Secretaries are James Cove Jones, Esq. F.S.A., and Charles Roach Smith, Esq. F.S.A.

OGAN.—"A young Irish sculptor," who is mentioned in the 2nd Vol. p. 331. of the Hon. Mrs. Murray's tour in Italy, a privately printed book, which I procured from you; surely must be intended for Hogan? Some people forget their H's (*aitches* as John Kemble would have it), and some more have a redundancy—could not a compromise be effected? What a puzzle is English pronunciation!—TO A FOREIGNER.

THE AUTHOR OF WAVERLEY. — The question raised by your Correspondent R. B. respecting the

selection of a name by Sir Walter Scott for his first novel, it appears to me may be answered by reference to his edition of Swift's Works, and the necessity he felt to "read up," as it is called, for the prefixed Memoir, which obliged him to look closely into the biography of Sir William Temple.

Now, Moore Park in Surrey, the seat of Sir William may be said to adjoin Waverley Abbey, which is beautifully situated on a bank of the Wey, about three miles from Farnham; and there are some wild legends connected with the locality, which would instantly have captivated the fancy of Scott as a novelist for the useful purpose he could have turned such supernatural agency to, should he have required its support in the conduct of his story. I allude to a cavern in an adjacent piece of rising ground still popularly called "Mother Ludlam's hole;" this was the supposed dwelling of a hag or witch, who, however, unlike beings of her class is said to have been very kindly disposed towards her neighbours.

But the story of Waverley itself—although Mother Ludlam's interference was not required to be called in to aid its conduct by "the great magician"—does it not bear internal marks that the family of Oglethorpe of Westbrook, a little rivulet which falls into the Wey, and even the well-known General Oglethorpe himself, who served under the Duke of Cumberland in "the forty-five" furnished some of the originals?

It is true, that Mr. Lockhart asserts Waverley to have been commenced so early as 1805, an assertion which (without the water-mark in the paper and which would only go to prove that it was not written before that time) is borne out by Sir Walter Scott's second title, "'Tis sixty years since."—And that it would appear upon the same authority that Scott did not seriously take Swift's Works in hand before 1808. Still as early as 1805 Scott was meditating his gigantic scheme of an edition of the British Poets, and had probably turned his mind to the consideration of the great political influence which had been produced by the verses of Dryden and Swift.

Brighton. R. S. T.

Mr. Plumer Ward—*the Author of Tremaine.* The remarkable note in your last Number respecting Sir Walter Scott's fastidiousness as to names, reminds me that Mr. Ward, the Author of "Tremaine" was no less fastidious. Soon after his third marriage in 1833, when he was nearly seventy, he frequently mentioned to his friends—myself among the number, the circumstance of his accidentally selecting from a road book the name of *Oakover* as a congenial sound for the seat of an Old English Gentleman in one of his works of imagination. And most strange to say after having completely dismissed the circumstance from his memory he found himself married to the widow of Charles Grē gŏ ry Okeover, (I remember the Christian names particularly from the way in which Mr. Ward accented them) of Okeover in Staffordshire, and stranger still is it that he should have resided for some years as guardian of the owner, his wife's son by a former husband, in the mansion the name of which had captivated his fancy.

Clever however as Mr. Ward's works of fiction may be, his literary fame in my opinion rests upon his Historical Criticism, as I know of no more valuable Essay to an Englishman, than his on the Revolution of 1688, in which the opinions of Locke, Burke, Fox, Mackintosh, Blackstone, Hallam and Lord John Russell are carefully considered.

Mr. Willis's obliged servant,

Rectory House, 4th July. G. R.

Anon, received. G. W. thinks that he can procure a copy of the book, which will settle the question.

The Society of Antiquaries.—G. W. is acquainted that he has been strangely misinformed respecting this Society, or its proceedings. From the report of the Auditors the affairs appear to be in a singularly satisfactory state. Peter Cunningham, Esq. F.S.A. read the report to the Society on Thursday, 20th March, 1851.

Among the disbursements for the year 1850, stand—

To Printers and Artists in the Publications of the Society .				£297	15	3
For Binding				17	17	4
				£315	12	7
For Salaries . .	£438	14	7			
Leaving a *small* balance in favour of Salaries of . . .				£123	2	0
To which may be added for Coffee and *making it* . . .				31	0	4
Making .				£154	2	4

"*The Report was ordered to be received, and the thanks of the Society to be returned to the Auditors for the trouble they had had, with thanks to the* Treasurer *for his* great *and valuable services.*"

F.S.A.

Society of Antiquaries.

Colney Hatch, July 12, 1851.

Sir,—An appeal having been made to me, or rather a challenge to defend an assertion I felt bound to make respecting the literary contributions of the new members of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries, I send you a statement which I have compiled from the Archæologia, and believe it to be

correct. I may also add that I do not see that either Sir R. Inglis or the Bishop of Oxford, (two of the Vice-Presidents), have ever furnished a single paper or a scrap of an exhibition!

Council for 1851.

	Number of papers supplied.
W. H. Blaauw, Esq.	One
P. Cunningham, Esq.	0
W. H. Drake, Esq.	0
J. H. Glover, Esq.	0
Joseph Gwilt, Esq.	0
The Earl Jermyn	0
Hon. W. L. Melville	0
Hon. R. C. Neville	0
J. B. Nichols, Esq.	0
F. Ouvry, Esq.	0
Jas. Prior, Esq.	0

Mr. Hunter and Mr. Wright are in the Council as makeweights. They have given perhaps 20 papers each; but to have 11 new members to rule who can only muster one paper among them, is too bad even for the Society of Antiquaries. Surely they themselves must feel they are usurpers. Lord Mahon has been ill advised.

I am, Sir,
Your obedient servant,
F. S. A.

West End, June 30, 1851.

Sir,—As one of the new members of the Council of the Society of Antiquaries of London, I protest against the inference F.S.A. would create by estimating our merits by the number of our papers. Those who write papers are not always the best governors of Societies. Position, and name, are as essential to the support of a literary body as great literary talents, which are unhappily often associated with humble means and low standing in society. Moreover, if the members of the present Council have not yet distinguished themselves by writing antiquarian papers, it does not prove that they are incompetent to write them. On the contrary, it may be presumed that they come to the aid of the society with untried and inexhausted powers, and their having been only recently elected, gives the Council a great advantage as those members come free from party prejudice. I may also observe that several of the new members of the Council, although they have not yet, perhaps, distinguished themselves in the *Archæologia*, have made themselves eminent as archæologists in other ways, and two at least have filled the Chair at the meetings of the Archæological Institute, a position which two of the Vice-Presidents of the Antiquaries have not disdained to hold. In conclusion I may observe, Sir, that your correspondent F.S.A. is very improperly employed in interfering in these matters. Lord Mahon, it is well known, is well advised who to propose, and who to exclude from the Council, and his Lordship's gracious condescension is appreciated by most of the Council, and by, Sir,

Your constant reader,
Another F.S.A. and Member
of the Council.

The Archæologia.—G. W.'s Notes have been rather crowded this month with communications relating to the Society of Antiquaries. The following is from a Subscriber in Paris, who feels aggrieved at the slowness of the Society in sending the Volumes of the Archæologia to the Foreign Societies which have been accustomed to receive them as gifts. But this is not the only Society in London of which a similar complaint has reached G. W., who would be happy to undertake the transmission of such works regularly.

Paris, le 15 *Juillet,* 1851.

Monsieur,—Ayant l'habitude de consulter les livres de la bibliothèque de nôtre Institut national, j'ai demandé il y a quelques jours le dernier volume de *l'Archæologia* de la Société des Antiquaires de Londres. On m'a repondu que depuis trois ans la société avait cessé d'y envoyer ses publications. J'ai appris depuis que d'autres sociétés de Paris, qui reçoivent les ouvrages publiés par la société des Antiquaires de Londres en échange des leurs, sont dans la même position. Je suppose que ce n'est qu'un motif de délicatesse qui empêche la bibliothèque de reclamer les volumes qui lui sont dus; mais comme j'en suis personellement privé, permettez—moi, Monsieur, de prier la société des Antiquaires, par l'entremise de vôtre journal, de rectifier ce qui n'est probablement qu'un oubli de leur sécrétaire. Recevez l' assurance de ma considération distinguée.

Un de vos abonnés.

The Edinburgh Review.—The July number which you have forwarded to me, keeps up I perceive with the spirit of the age in censuring the conduct of that "rich and chartered body," the Society of Antiquaries. The observations to which I refer occur in a very able and pleasantly written article on the Romans in Britain, in which four recent valuable Archæological publications are reviewed. "We will only mention as a proof," says the writer, "how far that body is from taking the lead at present, that of the gentlemen to whom we owe the valuable publications enumerated in the earlier part of our article one only, Mr. Roach Smith, adds F.S.A. to his name."

The notice of the story of Yanosh, the mythical Hussar in Count and Madame Pulszky's "*Tales and Traditions in Hungary*," has so tickled my fancy that I will thank you to send a copy for our library here.

18th July. R. A.

Wood's Index Entomologicus.—Sir,—I will thank you to send me the best work *for reference* on British Butterflies, Sphinges, and Moths.

Is it not Wood's Index which gives an illustration

of nearly two thousand species, displayed as they might be in the drawers of a cabinet, and thus acting literally as a perfect guide to a young collector in his arrangement? The publications of Westwood and Humphreys are not so terse, although their details may be, and no doubt are, very valuable. But they are books that I should consider more suitable for the drawing room table than for the small working library of an Entomologist.

I am aware that there are other books,—such as Miss Catlow's, but it appears to me, the great value of Wood's Index is the little space into which the worth of volumes is compressed, and the great truthfulness with which every insect is coloured. This must always cause Wood's Index (an 8vo. volume) to be a costly work, for I have been assured by a competent judge, that the accurate colouring of the plates by hand, and such are the variety of tints, that they can be done by no cheaper process, cannot be executed for less than nearly two pounds each copy. The "Index Entomologicus," therefore, is at the price you have named, although an expensive really not a dear purchase, and should you consider that I am correct in my estimate of the work, I will thank you to send it to me, addressed the same as your last parcel.

However, if you have not already discovered them, there are faults, and I would call your particular attention to the statement made in the preface, that all the insects figured in Plate XLIII. are magnified. On reference to the plate it will be perceived that three of the insects (Nos. 1338, 1339, and 1344) are represented of the natural size.

This is all that I can find to object to the accuracy of "Wood's Index," which was lent to me to arrange my collection by, and it is so trifling that I can easily amend these oversights by a note.

I remain, Sir,
Your humble servant,
T. F. D. C.

The Roman Pavement, mentioned in your *Notes* for April last, p. 29, as associated with the unfortunate death of Sir Robert Peel has not been removed to America.

I saw it yesterday for the first time at the Pantechnicon, Halkin Street, West, Belgrave Square, and it was offered for sale at 2 o'clock, by Messrs. Christie and Manson. Mr. Christie put up "the Autun Mosaic Pavement" as he called it, at £2000—no bidding followed—he then lowered that sum to £1500, and finally it was withdrawn.

4th July. F.

The Cedars—Hammersmith.—G. W. in consequence of the order forwarded to him by his respected customer, has had the stem of the extraordinary tree referred to drawn and engraved, the cost of which will be included in her account and the block forwarded by the end of the month with "Campanalogia," if to be procured, or any other work upon "Bell-ringing." Any letter-press printer will know how to throw off readily from the block as many impressions as may be required "upon note paper, or for a small book."

G. W. regrets that he cannot ascertain by whom this tree was planted or the house built—which does not appear to be so old as the time of Elizabeth; and the story is altogether an improbable one. It may have been told by Miss Fryer, who according to Faulkner, occupied the premises in 1839. He states that it had formerly been the residence of Sir James Branscomb, who "in his early days had been a servant to the Earl of Gainsborough, and afterwards for upwards of forty years carried on a lottery office in Holborn. He was a Common Councilman of the Ward of Farringdon Without, and received the honour of Knighthood during his shrievalty."

The Royal Literary Fund have determined on petitioning both Houses of Parliament against the Charitable Trust Bill.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Banks, Rev. Wilson. Astronomy. Derby. Aged 76. May 24.

Beaufoy, Henry. Science. South Lambeth. July 12.

Condy, Nicholas Matthews. Marine painter. Plymouth. Aged 32. May 20.

Gibbs, Sir George Smith, M.D. Medical Science. Sidmouth. Aged 80. June 23.

Gray, Charles (Captain R. M.) Lyrics. Glasgow. Aged 69. April 13.

Hamilton, Miss Eliza Mark. Poetry. Dublin. May 14.

Kinsey, Rev. William Morgan. Travels (Portugal), and Theology. Rotherfield Grey's, Oxfordshire. Aged 62. April 6.

Moir, D. M. Poetry (the Δ of *Blackwood's Magazine*). Dumfries. July 6.

Quillinan, Edward. Poetry and Criticism. He married 1st, Feb. 4, 1817, Jemima, Anne Debora, second daughter of the late Sir Egerton Brydges, Bart, and 2dly, the only daughter of the poet Wordsworth.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. VIII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [AUGUST, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes,* which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

CORRESPONDENCE *with the* MASTER OF THE ROLLS, *in reference to the admission of Literary Men to make searches in the* PUBLIC RECORDS.

TO THE RIGHT HONORABLE THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS.

London, 30 June, 1851.

SIR,—The undersigned Historical Writers, Members of various Literary Societies specially interested in the prosecution of historical inquiry, and persons otherwise engaged in literary pursuits, or connected therewith, beg leave most respectfully to submit to you:—

That, by the Statute 1 and 2 Victoria, cap. 94, sec. 9, the Master of the Rolls is empowered to make rules for the admission of such persons as ought to be admitted to the use of the Records, Catalogues, Calendars, and Indexes, and also to make rules for dispensing with the payment of fees in such cases as he shall think fit.

The undersigned would also most respectfully submit to you, that the researches of persons engaged in historical investigation and inquiry would be greatly facilitated, and the welfare of our national historical literature be promoted in a very high degree, if you would be pleased to exercise the power given to you in the Statute before mentioned by making an order that such persons may have permission granted to them to have access to the Public Records, with the Indexes, and Calendars thereof, without payment of any fee.

At present any person may search for and inspect any Record on payment of a fee of one shilling for a search in the Calendars, which may be continued for one week, and of another fee of the same amount for the inspection of each Record, or such fees may be commuted at the sum of five shillings per week, provided the search be limited to one family or place, or to a single object of inquiry.

These fees are of no benefit to any individual, but are paid over to the nation, the different officers of the Record Establishment being remunerated by salaries.

When a person desires to inspect one or two specific Records for his own private purposes these fees are unimportant in amount.

But when a person engaged in historical or antiquarian research wishes to build upon the evidence of public documents—the only sure foundation of Historical Truth—it ordinarily happens that in the progress of his inquiry he is obliged to refer to many Records; the inspection of one almost necessarily leads him on to others, and, as he proceeds, he continually finds references and allusions to many more, all which he ought to inspect, if for no other purpose, in order to be satisfied of their inapplicability to the subject of his research. This is the course of inquiry which in such cases is absolutely necessary to be adopted for the establishment of historical truth. Under the present practice this course cannot be adopted. Inquirers are deterred from referring to Records by the total amount of the reiterated fees, and are thus compelled to copy erroneous or questionable statements from earlier authors.

The literary men of the present day find it necessary for the establishment of truth to verify the authorities and references of earlier writers, but the amount of the present fees compels inquirers to accept statements professedly built upon the authority of the Records as they find them. Thus doubt and mistake are perpetuated and made part of our national history, and thus Time, which ought to be a test of truth, is often made to lend additional authority to error.

The present practice cannot be defended on the ground of its productiveness to the national revenue. The amount received for literary searches is altogether insignificant except to those who pay it. The attainment of historical truth—an object in which the whole nation is interested—is therefore prejudiced, and in many cases defeated, by the enforcement of fees which produce the nation absolutely nothing.

The exclusion of literary men from the inspection of the Records excites a demand on the part of persons interested in historical literature for the continuance, at the expense of the Government, of works

similar to those published by the late Record Commission. If access were freely granted to the Records, such demand would be silenced; for such publications would be undertaken by the numerous existing publishing societies, or by other voluntary associations which would be instituted for the purpose, as well as by individuals. Everything that is historically valuable at the British Museum is published without difficulty as soon as it is discovered.

Even in cases in which free access to manuscripts does not lead to their being printed, it promotes transcription, which tends to preserve valuable information against the unavoidable danger of total loss, to which it is liable whilst existing in a single copy. With a view to this danger the House of Commons ordered a transcript to be made of the Parliamentary Survey of 1650, a manuscript existing in the library of Lambeth Palace, and examples might be adduced of the contents of Cottonian MSS. destroyed by fire in 1731, having been partially supplied through the means of notes and transcripts previously made by persons who had access to the MSS.

Many of the most valuable historical works of past ages—such works, for example, as Dugdale's Baronage, the foundation of all our books relating to the peerage; Madox's History of the Exchequer, the basis of much of our legal history; Tanner's Notitia Monastica, the groundwork of our monastic history; and Rymer's Fœdera, which first enabled historical writers to put general English history upon a sure foundation—were all compiled principally from the Records. Every page contains many references to them. It is a common complaint that now-a-days no such works are published. Under the present practice such works cannot be compiled, nor can the improved historical criticism of the present age be applied to the correction of the errors which unavoidably crept into such works published in times past.

Lastly, the undersigned desire to state distinctly that they do not solicit this permission on behalf of any persons engaged in Record searches for legal purposes, or for any persons whatever save those who are carrying on researches for historical or other literary objects; and they would most readily acquiesce in and approve of the most stringent precautions against any abuse of the privilege which they solicit on literary grounds solely.

The undersigned therefore beg with the greatest respect to solicit your attention to the circumstances they have stated, and to request that you would be pleased to make an order that persons who are merely engaged in historical inquiry, antiquarian research, and other literary pursuits connected therewith, should have permission granted to them to have access to the Public Records, with the Indexes, and Calendars, without payment of any fee.

Signed by Lord Mahon and upwards of eighty Noblemen and Gentlemen.

Rolls House, Chancery Lane, 31 July, 1851.

My Lords and Gentlemen,

After consulting with Sir Francis Palgrave, and carefully considering your Memorial, with an anxious desire of meeting your wishes as far as practicable, consistently with the proper protection of the Records under the existing circumstances of the Record establishment, I propose to comply with your request to some extent at once, with a view to the ultimate compliance with it entirely, if the measure with which I propose to commence shall be found to work satisfactorily.

For the present, therefore, I will assent to the following regulation. I will authorise Sir Francis Palgrave, the Deputy Keeper of Records, to grant to any literary inquirer permission to search for, examine, and inspect, and to make notes, extracts, or copies in pencil, without payment of fees, of all such calendars or indexes of Records, and all Record papers and documents, or classes thereof, as in his judgment can be properly opened gratis to the literary inquirer, on his, the inquirer, explaining to the satisfaction of Sir Francis Palgrave that the application is for a bonâ fide literary purpose, upon his doing which an explanation will be given to the applicant of the extent and nature of the assistance which the officers of the establishment can render, and Sir Francis Palgrave will give the necessary directions to the assistant-keepers accordingly.

This regulation I have considered to be necessary in order to prevent any person under colour of literary inquiry gaining an unfair advantage over the business searchers, by making searches pretendedly for literary information, but in reality for legal or professional purposes, whether business or legal in the strict sense of the word, or such as are usually conducted by officers of the Heralds' College. I regret that, under present circumstances, it is impossible to extend the rule more generally, but, until the new repository for the Records shall be opened, both accommodation and attendance are insufficient.

The public Records and Archives cannot properly be considered exactly in the light of manuscripts deposited in the British Museum or any other library, for, besides the necessity of watching them with jealousy, lest they should be interpolated, mutilated, or stolen, the greatest caution is required to prevent their receiving detriment by rude or careless usage; and, although many of them are already bound in volumes (and it is intended ultimately so to treat all which are susceptible of this arrangement), many of the most important class of Records, including the ancient Enrolment Rolls of the Chancery, cannot be bound up, and their tenderness and friability from age or accident exposes them to the chance of injury on the mere rolling and unrolling, and, in consequence of their being written on both sides, their reparation is always difficult, and in many instances impracticable. Another difficulty arises from the forms and sizes of documents; many

are not connected together, and are not susceptible of being connected, and this particularly with respect to charters to which seals are appendant, which might be easily abstracted or lost by fraud or negligence; and further, although by the office rule all the documents ought to be stamped with the office stamp, it has not, as to many of them, been possible to do so as yet. It is proper also to state that, in some instances, inquirers who have an inadequate knowledge of the work of prosecuting their own inquiry, or of ancient modes of writing, are apt to require some person to be at hand to point out to them the matters required, or to decipher the writings, or interpret the words; and, by so doing, greatly interrupt the business of the office. The table of fees now in existence was settled, after great consideration, by Lord Langdale, and there has as yet been no complaint of their being onerous to the individuals who have occasion to use the Records; they were framed not for the purposes of revenue, but with a view merely to remunerate fairly the actual work and labour of Government officers, and to prevent indiscreet and ignorant inquirers from occupying the time of those officers.

I have stated these matters to explain why, with regret, I feel that it is not possible at present to do more than make the limited compliance with your request I have above stated; when, however, the new Record-buildings shall be sufficiently completed, these regulations shall be reconsidered with a view to granting every possible facility and encouragement to literary inquirers, and I shall direct Sir Francis Palgrave and the assistant-keepers to construe the permission I propose to grant as liberally as they possibly can consistently with their duty.

I am, my Lords and Gentlemen,
Your obedient Servant,
The Lord Mahon, &c. &c. JOHN ROMILLY.

Chevening, near Sevenoaks, August 2, 1851.

SIR,—I have the honour to acknowledge your letter of the 31st ult. and I will take means without delay to communicate it to the other gentlemen who signed the Memorial that was laid before you.

Those gentlemen, I am sure, will concur with me in feeling both the courtesy which you have shewn us, and the care with which you have considered our request. They will, I am sure, like myself, think you well entitled to the gratitude of every man of letters for the great and valuable concessions which you announce your intention to make forthwith, and for your further promise that, whenever the new Record-buildings are sufficiently completed, the regulations shall be re-considered with a view to granting every possible facility and encouragement to historical inquirers.

I have the honour to be, Sir,
Your faithful and obedient Servant,
Master of the Rolls, &c. &c. MAHON.

THE CHERTSEY METAL DISH.

Southwick, near Oundle, July 20th, 1851.

SIR,—I am much obliged to Mr. Fairholt for the information that the engraving on the Chertsey dish is not quite correct, as given to you; therefore the compound *sa* is confirmed to be *right*. As to the last letter but two, I have merely to ask—does an *oval* or circle in any known alphabet from North to South, from East to West, denote *s*? I know of none. The Hebrew ס *samech* comes the nearest, but the projecting part at the top will not let it become an *oval*, nor a circle.

The letters in question are *all Greek*, and their composition, &c. denote them to be very ancient; perhaps some little time after the Norman conquest. I have a communion cup of not near so ancient a date where he and ne are compounded in the same way. Allow me to refer Mr. Fairholt to a most curious inscription in the Archæological Journal for September 1845, p. 269, No. 7, where he will find the same duplex character *most ridiculously* described by Sir Samuel Meyrick as *musical notes!* whereas it is an inscription in Welsh, and relating to the pulpit and its carver, &c. And now, Sir, allow me again to give each letter its signification in a more particular manner than I could have supposed necessary. Reckoning the compound letters as single, we estimate the number, for the sake of convenience, to be eleven letters.

1st, CH, chi, 2nd, AE, alpha+epsilon, 3rd, uppermost part T, or tau; leaving on the left side at the middle a part of its ornament; and the lower part the old Greek R, rho, 4th, SA, sigma+alpha, 5th, H, or ēta, 6th, P, or pi, 7th, AR, or alpha+rho, 8th, AE, as before, 9th, O, or omicron, 10th, K, or kappa; with probably an arbitrary sign for a sedilla, to denote that it should be sounded softly as *s*, 11th, O, as before,

Yours truly,
T. R. BROWN.

P.S. Supposing the last letter but two to be somewhat defaced, still the *sense* requires it to be an O. I therefore beg to conclude by saying that Mr. Fairholt's letter has still more convinced me, that my interpretation given previously is quite correct. The dish is a *gem* for an antiquarian. For the old Greek letters sigma (3 sorts), and rho, see the Greek Grammar of Matthiæ.

EGYPTIAN HIEROGLYPHICS.—G. Willis feels much indebted to T. R. B. for his communications. He regrets that the limited space to which his Notes are confined do not permit of his inserting "the Interpretation of a remarkable group of Hieroglyhs taken from p. 16 of Gliddon's Lectures on Ancient Egypt," and to engraving which, the note at p. 52 last month referred.

But with his Correspondent's permission G. W. will forward the Essay to the Royal Society of Lite-

rature, where he feels certain that it will receive every attention from competent judges.

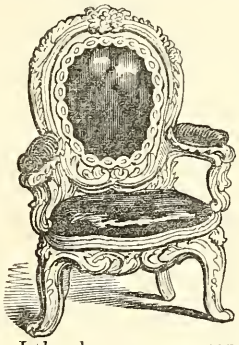
Mr. Dodd's Connoisseur. Can any Correspondent of your "Current Notes" furnish particulars relative to Thomas Dodd and his work "The Connoisseur," which appears to have ceased at the letters Bar. At least my copy goes no further?

C. B.

D. Deuchar. Also, any information about D. Deuchar, the engraver of etchings? The usual books of reference do not allude to them; though it is probable that neither of them is living. C. B.

Chairs. Sir,—I was much struck by the remarks of an Amateur in the last number of your Notes, respecting the character of chairs, and from the perusal feel quite convinced that every article of furniture deserves to be as carefully studied by an artist as suitable and correct costume.

Chairs and tables are in fact the costume of a room, and convey the period to the eye as plainly as the latter. When I was at Venice, I made studies of some chairs, which I enclose you, as they form so decided a contrast to the old English and German chairs engraved in your Notes, and you have my full permission to copy any of them. You will please retain my sketches, which I value, until I call or send for them.



I thank your correspondent on behalf of myself and fellows for calling attention so pointedly to this matter, and remain,

Sir,
Your obliged servant,
Mr. Willis. An Artist.

Monumenta Historica Britannica.

A writer in the *Numismatic Chronicle* for the past month (No. LIII.). in referring to this work (the numismatic materials of which were "compounded," we believe, in the coin room of the British Museum), significantly says, "May I take this opportunity of warning numismatists against the coin engraved as No. 60 of the first plate, *which is decidedly a modern fabrication? !!*"

The Monumenta Historica Britannica.—Sir,—In reference to this work, which has, as your correspondent observes, cost this country £10,000, I find a passage in the preface to Mr. Thomas Wright's edition of "Gaimar, Havelok et Herward," page 12, to which I direct the attention of all who wish to form an estimate of the manner in which the work was 'got up.' Speaking of *Gaimar* as published by the Government, Mr. Wright observes, and who shall appeal against his judgment?—"It has been edited by one very little acquainted with the grammatical forms and construction of the language, and, though at first collated on the original manuscript with some care, *the greater part of it is edited so incorrectly that every two or three lines present an error, often a grave one.*"

I am, Sir, your obedient servant,
Pentonville, Aug. 4, 1851. F. S. A.

This book was first in the hands of Mr. Petrie. It was subsequently placed in those of Mr. Hardy of the Tower, who I believe did his best to provide competent persons to complete the work. One of the most discreditable parts of the book is that relating to the British and Romano-British coins. The plates too have been done by some "cheap" process, and are most unsatisfactorily executed.

Dates of old Books—*Roman Characters.*—Many readers who are accustomed to Roman numerical characters as used by the moderns, are a little perplexed in scanning the dates of olden books where numbers are expressed by modes now regarded as obsolete. For the assistance of such, the following numbers explained, will sufficiently solve the peculiarities referred to, as they include all the variations from the present mode, which are ordinarily to be met with—

9	VIIII	instead of	IX
13	XIIV	,,	XIII
14	XIIII	,,	XIV
18	XIIX	,,	XVIII
19	XVIIII	,,	XIX
40	XXXX	,,	XL
80	XXC	,,	LXXX
90	LXXXX	,,	XC
400	CD	,,	CCCC
500	IↃ	,,	D
600	IↃC	,,	DC
700	IↃCC	,,	DCC
800	IↃCCC	,,	DCCC
900	IↃCCCC	,,	DCCCC
1000	CIↃ or OO or $\overline{\text{I}}$	,,	M

For further explanations in detail the reader is referred to Dr. Lardner's Cabinet Cyclopædia, article "Arithmetic—" and to the National Cyclopædia, article "Numerical Characters."

York, June 2, 1851. W. R. L.

Harry Rowe.—The Gentleman who (in your June Notes, p. 43), doubted the existence of Harry Rowe's edition of Macbeth by reason of his not being possessed of a copy, and never having heard of such a person as Harry Rowe, will perhaps be

pleased to learn that in the year 1797, there was printed at York a musical farce, called "No cure, no pay; or, the Pharmacopolist," by Harry Rowe, Master of a Puppet-Show, and Trumpet-Major to the High Sheriffs of Yorkshire. With 'Notes by a friend." To this farce, which is a satire upon Quack Doctors, and the facility with which Diplomas could be obtained at the time the author wrote, is appended a very curious portrait of Harry Rowe in his dress of trumpet-major, with this avowal underneath: "In plain English I am master of a Puppet-Show." He then apologizes for publishing his farce: "This piece was written some years ago, and as it was well received in all the towns in which I took up a temporary residence, I have, in gratitude to my numerous audiences, ventured to submit it to the public eye, in confidence that no one will think himself pointed at, as the satire extends in a right line from Warwick Lane to St. Ambrose, without going one yard out of the road."

I possess a copy of "No cure, no pay," which I believe is scarce; and there is a copy of Rowe's Macbeth in the very curious library of James Maidment, Esq., Edinburgh, the only private Gentleman, who as far as I can learn, is a collector of Dramatic Literature, a taste for which, I regret to find, obtains not as yet in the northern part of Her Majesty's dominions. It may be as well to observe that Mr. Maidment's library is not entirely confined to the Drama, but in most respects will bear competition with many of the principal private Libraries throughout the kingdom.

Your obedient Servant,
W. H. L.

Berwick-on-Tweed,
26th July, 1851.

THE BREECHES BIBLE. In reply to the Rev. E. S. T. (*July Notes, p.* 53.) This is called the "Breeches Bible," (sometimes the "Geneva Bible," having been translated there by several reformers, who fled from England to Geneva during Queen Mary's reign,) from the translation of Genesis iii. ver. 7, where the word "breeches" supplies the place of "apron" in the more modern editions.

The first edition was printed at Geneva in 1562 or 1563, and between that date and 1600, there were upwards of one hundred other editions printed. I have lately seen an advertisement in one of the daily papers offering a "Breeches Bible," but naming no price, the owner evidently intending to name something considerable; but the value is not now great, and I saw one a few days ago in a Manchester shop, in fair condition, for twelve shillings.

BROCTUNA.

Bury L. 29th July, 1851.

Mr. Charles Roger, Secretary of the Dundee Public Library, has had the goodness to forward to G. Willis an extract of three quarto pages respecting the Breeches Bible, from his work on the Collation of the Sacred Scriptures, printed at Dundee, 1847. It is there stated that the Geneva Bible was finished and printed in 4to. by Rowland Harle, 10th April, 1560; between which period and 1611, when King James' version was published, it went through eighty-four editions, and continued to be printed and circulated so late as 1644.

After disposing of 1660 copies of his work, Mr. Rogers sold the copyright to a London publisher, and is kindly pleased to add,—"If your correspondent (the Rev. E. S. T.) wishes for a perfect copy (of the Breeches Bible), he can say what he would be willing to allow, and I shall ask the gentleman who has it if he will part with it."

COCKER'S ARITHMETIC AND THE BREECHES BIBLE.

Laxton Vicarage, Rockingham,
August 13th, 1851.

SIR,—From the subjoined extract, which appeared a few months ago in "the Stamford Mercury," it would appear that Dibdin was in error as to the *extreme rarity* of "COCKER'S ARITHMETIC," and whose remarks possibly led to a copy recently fetching at Messrs. Puttick and Simpson's Auction Rooms, the sum of *eight pounds ten shillings.*

The correspondent above referred to, says: "A copy of an earlier date (than that of 1678), is now in the possession of Mrs. Fanny Robinson, an elderly person residing in Easthorpe, near Horncastle, whose ancestors were school-masters and collectors of old works. This copy is of the first edition, and dated 1677."

"Another copy of the same date is in the possession of Mr. Thomas Willey, builder, of Horncastle."

The Breeches Bible.—The Breeches Bible is not a book of such uncommon occurrence as a medical gentleman in the Peak of Derbyshire stated to a clergyman some time ago, who affirmed to him (and who fully relied on his gross assertion), that there were only *three copies* printed, and that he was fortunate enough to be a possessor of one of them.

"Those editions of the sacred text" (says Holmes in his Descriptive Catalogue, vol. i. page 26) "which have obtained the vulgar name of '*Breeches Bibles*,' from the word 'breeches' occurring in the 7th verse of the 3rd chapter of Genesis, instead of the word 'apron,' (as in our present translation), are generally of the 4to. size, yet the folio Bible of 1595, A. D. has the same word inserted (instead of aprons), and is supposed to be the only example thereof in a folio Bible."

"It is considerably more literal than the editions of Tyndale and Coverdale; a very free use is made of *Italic supplements*: and on the whole, the improvement in the former is not so great as might have been expected." Orme's Bibliotheca Biblica, page 36.

J. C. GLAVES.

Milton.—G. W. is gratified to learn that his Colchester subscriber received safely in the manner pointed out, the books ordered by him on the 30th ultimo, and that he is pleased with the new edition of Milton, by the Rev. John Mitford.

From the three reports of the lecture on the life and times of "our great Poet, and it may be added great prose writer," which were delivered at Colchester in the early part of the present year, by J. A. Hardcastle, Esq. M.P., and which have been so politely forwarded to G. W. for insertion in his Notes—he selects that given in "*the Daily News*" of 27th February, as best suited to his brief space, but which his subscriber considers should be regarded only as "a clever abridgment."

"After some introductory remarks, Mr. Hardcastle observed that 240 years had elapsed since the birth of John Milton, but that the principles which actuated the poet were still making their way in the world, enlightening men's minds and enabling them to withstand the encroachments of tyranny and oppression. At the beginning of Elizabeth's reign the question of vestments became an important feature of discussion, The vestments retained at that period were looked upon by the reform party as badges of Popery, and not without reason. From the intolerant conduct of the authorities of the Church at that time, it was not to be wondered at that Milton, through life, sided with the Puritan party. The whole aspect of the affairs of the Church of England at the time of Milton reminded him forcibly of that which they presented at the present period; there was one great difference, however, and that was the existence of that toleration which permitted the enjoyment of all religious opinions which did not involve social consequences. The lecturer proceeded to show the analogy of these two periods of English history. In 1621, when the king had been on his throne fourteen years, the breach, ever widening between the King and the Commons, gave rise to a remonstrance against "Papal aggression," to which James replied in the summary way of telling them to "mind their own business, and not to interfere with matters that did not concern them." Milton visited Galileo, the astronomer, and on his return found England in a blaze at the tyrannical conduct of Charles, and Scotland in opposition to the Liturgy. It was the "beginning of the end," and to the end, Milton most materially contributed. He took the ecclesiastical side of the controversy. He directed the shafts of his satire, however, against priestcraft in all its forms, and although principally directed to Rome he did not spare the Presbyterian. Milton's only reason for not entering the ministry of the Church, for which he had been educated, was this: "He thought it better to prefer a blameless silence before the sacred office of speaking, bought and begun by servitude and false swearing." The hon. gentleman then proceeded to review the writings of the poet, "who appeared throughout to appeal to that spirit whom he addressed in the opening of 'Paradise Lost,'" and concluded a most interesting lecture amidst loud cheers.

Obsolete Punishments.—The conclusion of the extract from Evelyn's Diary, in the June Number of your Notes, p. 44, respecting one of the men who robbed Evelyn of his ring being *pressed to death*, suggests the question how long this old-fashioned and unscrupulous mode for discovery of the truth has been disused? Blackstone does not inform us, but assigns a reason for its adoption creditable to our ancestors' prudence and sagacity, if their barbarity be forgotten for a moment. It was not, as might appear, a rude device, dictated by abstract love of truth, but an ingenious plan for securing forfeiture of lands which could only befal a convict of *petit* treason or felony. It must then have been coeval with feudal tenures; and it is no insignificant witness to what a Republic may bring forth that the beneficent rule of Cromwell was disfigured by far more rigorous punishments than had prevailed under either Tudor or Stuart. H. J. C.

Boston, 22nd July.

Dr. Maginn's Homeric Ballads.—G. Willis thanks his correspondent H. J. C. for his information respecting them; but questions if "the person" named is "the best acquainted with Dr. Maginn's literary remains."

G. W. regrets that anything like an uncivil notice to H. J. C. should have appeared as stated by him in the April Notes, or that the power of reply should have been refused; but he cannot trace the paragraph in question, unless it refers to Moore and Jeffreys' duel, p. 28, and the communication made to him under the initials Y. S. N. In that case, he merely recorded the observation of another correspondent who it would appear desired to save himself trouble.

Yorkshire MSS.—The two volumes of MSS. respecting which *Ebor* (11 July) enquires have passed into G. W.'s hands and are at present his property, but as he has had an application to inspect them and to make notes from them, with which he has complied, he cannot say whether they will be returned to him or not, nor can he without reference furnish the particulars required.—

The volumes are bound in Russia and the documents range from the fourteenth to the eighteenth century. Among them are Surveys of Land, including an early English Terrier of Lands at Grimston temp. Henry VIII. Charters of the 14th and 15th centuries, a large collection of original letters dated at Pontefract, originals of cases between the Families of Monckton and Savile, original papers respecting Wakefield, Worthstainly, York, Thornhill, Silkston, East Cowton, Beverley, Helmside, Darnbrook, Hutton, Sheffield, Conisburgh, Halifax, Leeds, New Malton, Kingston upon Hull, and many other places in Yorkshire. Among the families to which the papers relate are those of Wentworth, Rishton, Monckton, Savile, Dickson, Elsey, Watkins, Williamson, Musgrave, &c.

Blackwood's Magazine. There can be no doubt that Blackwood printed an alphabetical list of the Contributors to his Magazine, somewhere (from internal evidence respecting the addresses given) about 1825; but it was never published, the proof having come by mistake into the hands of one of his Contributors and most confidential friend, who at once saw how important it was to the interests of *Blackwood's Magazine* that some of the names of the writers should never transpire. And this he effected more by a piece of waggery than if he had soberly remonstrated. He accordingly, in conjunction with a mutual friend, dashed into the list several of the most improbable names that they could think of. And this was returned to the printer, who in the course of business corrected it accordingly, and sent the slips to Blackwood for instructions as to how and when they were to be used. By the worthy publisher, who was the Editor of his "Maga," as he loved to call the periodical bearing his name—the list was received with the most unbounded astonishment—astonishment almost amounting to horror, and he actually sent it with an account of the hoax which had been perpetrated upon him to the author of it—frankly acknowledging that he was fully convinced of the impropriety of the step he had almost taken of parading a list of the literary talent by which his *Magazine* was supported; and requesting that the re-proof he had received might be destroyed.

To a certain extent this was complied with, but the second slip somehow or the other escaped destruction, and Mr. Willis now receives it as found among some old papers which I am looking over previously to burning them.

As more than a quarter of a century has however elapsed, Mr. Willis may print this list in his *Notes* or not as he pleases, or as he thinks it likely to interest his subscribers.

G. W. respectfully and gratefully acknowledges the receipt of this communication, and will certainly in the next number of his Notes reprint the very curious literary document forwarded to him.

He regrets to observe that the names from A to G inclusive, which appear to have occupied the corresponding slip, No. 1, are wanting, as this commences with H.

The Miller Correspondence.—Is well known to have been a literary hoax, which appeared in *Fraser's Magazine* for November 1833, (Vol. VIII.) The letters however are nearly all genuine, and were ingeniously although not very creditably procured by an Autograph Collector.

Tobacco.

Sir,—As the subject of Tobacco appears from your Notes for February last (p. 13), to be one of interest to your correspondent, T. M., I beg to acquaint him that I recently procured a curious little work in small 4to. pp. 70, entitled, "A defence of Tobacco: *with a friendly answer to the late printed booke called* worke for chimney-sweepers, etc., London, printed by Richard Field for Thomas Man, 1602." I merely mention this as my copy contains on the fly leaf, the following MS. Note. "*From the library of John Evelyn of Wootton.—See his handwriting affixed to the dedication.—W. Upcott.*"

The dedication is "To the Right Worshipful, Sir Henrie Cocke, Knight, Cofferer to Her Majestie, and Master Richard Browne, Esquire, Clarke of the Greene cloth."

John Evelyn's note upon "Browne Esquire" is "*afterward Knt. Grandfather to Sr. R. Br. Knt. Bart. of Saye Court.*" As the work is not mentioned in Watt's Bibliotheca Britannica, I presume it is one of rare occurrence, and I therefore transcribe the dedication.

Much here is said, Tobacco *to defend,*
And much was said, Tobacco *to disgrace:*
Reade, marke, and scan: then censure in the end:
Both you are men, most fit to judge the case.
Esteeme of me as you in me shall find:
Crave pardon first I do: and that obtaind,
Know this, that no man shall with better mynd,
Each where declare to you his love unfaind.

Come what shall come, to this poore Indian toy:
Unto you both I wish immortal joy.

Portraits Anglais. The estimation in which the authors and actors of England are held in France is curiously shewn by the following list of portraits which have recently appeared as a National Collection.

Nine different Portraits of Shakspeare.

7 of his Contemporaries, viz. *Ben Jonson, Beaumont, Fletcher, Spenser, Massinger, Drayton, and Shirley.*

6 of his Commentators, viz. *Warburton, Johnson, Steevens, Reed, Malone,* and *Drake.*

8 of Actors in his Plays, viz. *Betterton, Garrick, Macklin, Mrs. Pritchard, Mrs. Siddons, Cooke, Henderson,* and *Kemble.*

This is a pretty fair National tribute to the genius of Shakspeare, when only the portraits of nine other Authors and the Queen of England have been admitted into the Gallery, viz. *Bulwer, Byron, Gibbon, Goldsmith, Washington Irving, Lingard, Milton, Thomas Moore,* and *Walter Scott.*

Paris, 9th July. C. H. G.

Dryden's Funeral.—The perplexing and incredible account of Dryden's funeral, which first made its appearance in some memoirs of Congreve, published by Curll, Mr. Malone has proved to be a tissue of falsehood; and though ascribed to Charles

Wilson, Esq. the fabrication is traced to Mrs. Elizabeth Thomas, a gentlewoman of good birth and some talents, who had become acquainted with Dryden a few months before his death, and was honoured by him with the title of "Corinna." The only excuse made for her is, that at the time of writing, she was in the Fleet Prison in great poverty and distress; and was induced, probably by some small sum of money, to furnish Curll with a fictitious narrative. "But, however light and venial," observes Malone, "such offences may appear to the dealers in fiction, mankind are too well acquainted with the value of integrity and truth, in all human dealings, not to hold the whole tribe of impostors and forgers of every kind in abhorrence; and however they may be elated by the praise of ingenuity, or the profits of successful fraud, detection and disgrace will assuredly at last overtake them."

Athenæus.—The friend and correspondent of Roscoe—Mr. Thomas Eagles, who was Collector of Customs at Bristol, and died in 1812, is known to have left at his death a translation of Athenæus, carefully prepared for press. What has become of this MS. and why was it not printed? J. R.

"Charlotte Elizabeth."—Her writings are well known in the religious world. She was the widow of Captain Phelan of the 60th, and afterwards the wife of Mr. Tonna, the Director of the United Service Institution. Like Lady Morgan, "Charlotte Elizabeth" esteemed it "a high honour and rich blessing that some of her works accidentally attained a place in the Papal Index Expurgatorius."

The Copyright Question.—A meeting on this subject took place at the Hanover Square Rooms on the 1st July, when Sir Bulwer Lytton was in the Chair, and delivered a very long and able address, which with the proceedings have been fully reported in the newspapers.

One of the cheapest floral works of the day is certainly that of which G. W. has recently issued the first Monthly number. It contains in each number four carefully coloured plates of the flowering plants and shrubs cultivated in the gardens of England, with the most recent practical hints on culture, propagation, &c. from the observations of Lindley, Sweet, Don, &c.

"Each leaflet is a tiny scroll
Inscribed with holy truth,
A lesson that around the heart
Should keep the dew of youth;
Bright missals from angelic throngs
In every bye-way left;
How were the earth of glory shorn
Were it of flowers bereft."

The Society of Antiquaries.

With the following communication G. W. must close the discussions which his Correspondents have forced upon him respecting this Society, and its management.

Reference to his last Catalogue will shew that he can supply a complete and desirable set of the Archæologia for Twenty Guineas.

Sir,—I have been struck with a letter in your last number, signed "another F. S. A. and a member of the Council."

The writer advances some bold assumptions which will be found upon reflection as hollow as they are sonorous. What does he mean by position and name? Are some members of the Society without these tangible evidences of corporeal existence? He says, forsooth, persons who write papers are not always the best governors of societies! Does he mean to insinuate that eleven persons who have only written one paper from out the batch are the best to govern? that those of whom nothing is known and who produce nothing are in the highest degree qualified to rule?

I hope, Sir, that those who hold the seats of Stukely, Pegge, Lysons, Englefield, Gage Rokewode, and others, do not occupy places of honour and fame because their powers were untried, nor for the imaginary "grand talent of silence" they certainly did not possess! And what is meant by party—party prejudice? it seems to me that this entire party of eleven, which have been thrust upon the Society, constitute as prejudiced, and I will add as inefficient a party as ever arrogated to themselves position and merits to which they have no claim. Again, as for filling chairs at Archæological Institutes, those who have attended such meetings will know how to attach the proper value to such a position. I am not an F. S. A. but have contributed some little to the cause of Archæology, and am, Sir,

Your obedient Servant, and Subscriber,

G. Willis, Esq. Suburban.

P.S. In confidence I enclose my name and address.

G. W. feels himself bound to acknowledge the very liberal manner in which the appeal made in the June number of his Notes, respecting the appearance of woodcuts, has been responded to, and which cannot fail to give them increasing interest and utility.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Daguere, Louis Jacques Maude. Discoverer photograph process. Paris. Aged 62. July 10.

Lee, Miss Harriet, Novelist. Clifton. Aged 96. August 1.

Lingard, Rev. John, (D.D.) Historian. Hornby. Aged 81. July 17.

Rogers, Francis James Newman (Q. C.) Law. Aged 59. July 18.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. IX.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—Shakspere. [September, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. Willis gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes,* which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

Recollections of "Gentleman Jones."

Richard Jones, one of the ornaments of the Stage as a profession, made his exit from the stage of life on the 30th of last month, at the age, as chronicled in the newspapers, of 72, but according to better information he had advanced into his 74th year. And as Mr. Willis has recorded, in his Current Notes for March last, a remarkable anecdote respecting Curran, in connexion with

> —"Mercutio Jones—ungrateful Jones,
> Who left the stage for ever,
> To manufacture Orators from drones,
> And make the Clergy clever,"—

perhaps some of my recollections of him may not be an unacceptable communication.

Jones was *not* merely the associate of

> "Kemble, Young, and Kean,
> Siddons and O'Neil,"

and one of the theatrical stars of our times, but he lived on terms of intimacy and friendship with many distinguished wits and literary men, among whom may be mentioned Sheridan, Curran, and his biographer Charles Phillips, the Rev. George Croly, Eaton Barrett, Thomas Moore, George Colman the Younger, (*Ingoldsby*) Barham, Sidney Smith, and Theodore Hook, who, to his first series of "Sayings and Doings," where mention is made of Kemble, Munden, Jones, Terry and "Irish" Johnstone, appends the following note:—

"The fame and popularity of actors are, as it has been often said, fleeting, unstable, and unsatisfactory. Since this story was written, all the eminent actors here named, excepting one, are in their graves, without having had the power of leaving to the present generation of play-goers the least trace of their excellence in their various lines. They have been succeeded by other men who, inferior as they seem to those who remember their predecessors, will no doubt be registered in the minds of their first young admirers as standards of perfection, to which no actor who follows *them* will, in the opinion of those admirers, attain;—and so it goes on from first to last. The survivor of the actors named is Jones, who has, however, retired from the stage, in the zenith of his reputation, and turned teacher of elocution to deficient senators and incipient clergymen, in which capacity he is doing a vast deal of good to himself and his numerous aristocratic pupils."(1836.)

With the exception of the Duke of Wellington and Lord Brougham, there was no one with whose personal appearance the London public was more familiar than with that of "Richard Jones the player," or as he was more usually styled "Gentleman Jones;" and few public men have enjoyed, for nearly half a century, more of public respect and admiration. Within a week of his death he was to be seen almost daily taking his usual exercise, lounging in Hyde Park, between three and six o'clock, or perhaps sauntering along Piccadilly, when he would turn in and rest himself in the shop of Mr. Ridgway, the publisher, and there, perhaps, hold an agreeable chat with Lord Brougham. It was impossible to mistake Jones, for he was bowed to, and he gracefully returned the recognition of all our most distinguished Peers, Prelates, and Senators, and he was regarded with scrutinizing eye by a few antiquated dandies, as "the best dressed man in the Park." Yet there was nothing obtrusive in the manner or appearance of Mr. Richard Jones, who was, both on and off the stage, from which he quietly withdrew, without any clap-trap benefits, or farewell nights, or dinner exhibitions, the perfect model of a gentleman, in mind, in private character, and, it is superfluous to add, in manner. But, although he glided quietly from public into private life, the drop-scene cannot fall silently upon the memory of Richard Jones, who was not ashamed of his profession as an actor, to which he desired to give dignity and utility, as a teacher of oratory. And his early education as an architect, by which his attention was directed to the construction of buildings, as adapted to the voice, with his theatrical inclinations, which led him to inquire how the voice was to overcome unfavourable construction, made him the architect of his own fortune. There have been, and there are brows, now dignified by the mitre, not ashamed to acknowledge their deep

debt of gratitude to Richard Jones, "the Actor," as the instructor of the Pulpit; indeed, with his Lordship's permission, I could name one:—but Mr. Jones himself strictly concealed the names of his pupils.

The scandalous and offensive anecdote to the memory of both Mr. and Mrs. Jones, related in the *Sunday Times*, and from thence, without examination or inquiry, copied into various periodicals, respecting Miss Stevens, who afterwards became his wife, and who is stated to have "made every article of his clothing (except his shoes), before they were married," is entirely without foundation; although it is true, that Mr. Jones commenced life with scarcely a guinea in his pocket, married early (when eighteen), and what would be called "imprudently;" —yet that wife and himself, during upwards of fifty years, never slept for a single night from under the same roof. Such an instance of conjugal attachment is, I believe, scarcely upon record, and I will, with your permission, endeavour to relate the whole of their romantic love story; their first and only separation until death took his excellent partner from him about fifteen months since, and the trials and struggles of their early life, as told to me by Mrs. Jones herself, retaining her very words.

"The first time we met was at a juvenile ball in Manchester, both being then under ten years of age. 'My dear Richard' (thus she usually spoke of him) came up and asked me to dance. I was sorry that I did not know how. 'Then,' said he, for the gentleman was always in him, even at that tender age, 'I will sit down and talk with you, if you will allow me.' There we sat the whole evening, and some years afterwards met again at another ball, when I could dance, and dear Richard danced with me. After this we met frequently, and then (said Mrs. Jones with a sigh) my dear Jones went astray, but I thought—never mind! he'll come back to me—and so he did—telling me that he must be an actor and nothing else. I told him that it would break the hearts of my father and mother to see me the wife of an actor. So dear Richard (sly fellow) left the stage behind the scenes until he had secured his bride; and, he having no immediate employment, it was settled that we should live with my parents, who could not bear the thought of parting from a beloved daughter.

"This (continued Mrs. Jones) went on all very well for some time, when one day dear Richard, in great glee, informed me that he had an offer of an engagement at a provincial theatre, on a salary of a guinea a week. Two persons, accustomed to good circumstances, however, could hardly live respectably on so small an income, and it was agreed that I should remain at home, until dear Richard had made his attempt to be a public favourite, and then that I should go and join him. In a short time, dear Richard wrote to say that his salary was raised to twenty-five shillings a week, and that he was becoming popular. Surely, I thought, we could live on that. Then came the next news that he was to have thirty shillings a week. And then, as it appeared evident to me, that we must be wickedly extravagant, if such an income could not maintain us, I set off to join my husband."

Although Mrs. Jones, as she herself has stated to me, *then* of necessity became his tailor and laundress, making everything that Mr. Jones wore, except his shoes and hat, they discovered their income, however prudently managed, to be little enough, and upon the occurrence of an Easter vacation of a week, he and his young wife found themselves without the means of procuring a dinner.

They had never contracted a debt, and set out in life with the resolve never to do so. And in order to keep up appearances, it was arranged that they should pretend to be engaged to dinner, and go out accordingly from their lodgings. They had determined to take a long walk and come home to tea, of which and some bread their cupboard happily possessed a small supply.

Whilst Mrs. Jones went to dress with this intent, "dear Richard," to resume her narrative, "strolled up the street to see if the coach had come in, when what should he espy upon it, but a large hamper addressed to himself—'half-a-crown to pay!' In the fulness of his joy he quite forgot our empty pockets; and rushing into our room, exclaimed, 'Give me half-a-crown—quick! there's a basket come for us, I am sure it's from your mother, and there's half-a-crown to pay.' 'My dear Jones,' said I, 'you know that I have not one farthing.' Out he started like a madman, and meeting one of his fellow-players, said to him, 'My dear fellow—let me look at half-a-crown, if you happen to have got such a thing about you—will you?' The coin was no sooner produced than dear Richard, (without saying, 'thus let me clutch thee,') snatched it from the hand of his friend, and was half-way to the coach-office before 'the bereaved one' had time to say, 'Come, come, Jones, *no nonsense, you know.*'" (This was with Mrs. Jones a favourite bit of slang all through her life, and I think the explanation of it led her to tell what I have related). But to continue. "In came dear Richard, panting under the weight of the hamper. The string was soon cut, and with what eagerness did we regard it. 'I know,' said I, 'there is something good in this from my mother;' so lifting up the lid, the first thing that appeared was a beautiful spare rib of pork ready roasted. I ran to our landlady for the loan of a dish. We got bread out of the cupboard and sat down, one on each side of the hamper. Our banquet was soon over; not so our thankfulness, and after having satisfied the cravings of hunger, I said, 'Now let us put away this delicious pork, and see what else the hamper contains. A pound of tea,—oh! let us empty this. I know that when my mother used to send me parcels to school there was always *something in everything.* Out dropped a guinea! Go on; a pair

of shoes for my Jones—(THE ONLY PART OF HIS DRESS I COULD NOT MAKE).' 'Shew them to me. Ah! a guinea in the toe of each of them! What next? Three bottles of port wine and a letter from my dear mother desiring me to take a glass daily. Poor soul! I would not for the world have had her know that at the moment we received her kind present, I could not have afforded myself a glass of penny beer.' "

"I think," (said Mrs. Richard Jones to me on the day which I noted down in my journal as the last when I saw her, it was the 20th February, 1849, referring to this occurrence), "that on that day we had never felt so rich before or since; and I need scarcely add, we did not go out to dinner."

(*To be concluded in the next Number.*)

ANOTHER LITERARY PENSION. — *The Times*, (8th September), states that Lord John Russell has conferred upon Professor Wilson a pension of £300 a-year.

If your readers will refer to the first page of your *Current Notes* for April last, No. IV., I think they will at once perceive the reason why this pension has been conferred by a Whig Government on the leading writer in *Blackwood's Magazine*. The secret history of Literary Pensions would make a curious book.

R. J. W.

LITERARY APHORISMS.—A series of Aphorisms which appear in the *Northampton Mercury* of 30th August, under the title of "Sweepings of a Commonplace Book," and of which a continuation is promised, are so full of correct observation upon life and manners, that I am tempted to send you the two following extracts, with which those who indulge in literary thoughtfulness will I think perfectly agree.

S. F.

"As a general rule it is a mark of very bad taste to speak of a person before his face, or to quote to an author, in general society, passages from his own writings. Every one laughed at d'Haussez, when to disprove Sir Walter Scott's powers of conversation, he said, 'he could not talk, *even when I introduced the subject of his own writings.*' "

"It is a great mistake to regard the lives of men of action as the only proper subjects for biography. The opinions of a student are just as much facts as the battles of a soldier, or the speeches or measures of a statesman; and it is of far more advantage to the world at large to be told what are the merits, defects, and peculiarities of their standard authors, or what conclusions deep thinkers or acute critics have arrived at on these and similar subjects, than to learn all the tactics by which victories are won in the field or all the intrigues by which measures are carried in the senate."

GENERAL HUMBERT. — F. A. C. thanks Mr. Willis for the notice of General Hoche in the *Current Notes* for February last, page 15; and sends him a copy of the letter addressed to Bishop Stock by the leader of the French troops which landed at Killalla, when allowed to return to France. It is the letter of a gentleman.

"*Le Général Humbert à Milord l'Evêque de Killalla.*

"Douvres, le 26 Octobre, 1798.

"MILORD,—Etant sur le point de rentrer en France, je dois vous témoigner les sentimens distingués que vous m' avez toûjours inspiré. Après avoir eu l'avantage de vous connoître, j'ai toûjours regretté que le hasard et mon devoir de militaire m'aient obligé, en portant le fléau de la guerre dans votre voisinage, à troubler le bonheur domestique dont vous jouissiez, et que vous meritez à tous les égards. Trop heureux, si en rentrant dans ma patrie, je puis me flatter d'avoir acquis quelques titres à votre estime. Indépendamment des raisons particulières que j'ai pour vous aimer et vous estimer, le tableau que le citoyen Charost me trace de toutes vos bontés pour lui et ses officiers, tant avant qu' après la reddition de Killalla, sera pour moi un titre éternel d'estime et de reconnoissance.

"Je vous prie, Milord, d'en accepter l'expression, et d'en faire part à votre estimable famille.

"Je suis, avec la plus haute estime,

"Milord,

"Votres très humble serviteur,

Humbert

OUR AMERICAN SPECIAL REPORTER.

"New York, 27th August, 1851.

"The steamer which conveys this note will also convey an account of a second invasion of Cuba from America, headed by the Creole General Lopez, and the very summary execution of some fifty of his vagabond associates, which were captured in boats by a Spanish war steamer, and carried into Havana, where they were shot without ceremony next morning. The account of their execution, and the indignities *said* to have been perpetrated on the bodies, has created immense excitement in this country, but only among such as the vagabonds themselves! The *respectable* part of our community are unanimous in their opinion that the vagabonds richly deserved the fate they met. Pay not attention to the rabble press of America, the most atrocious falsehoods have been invented and published as facts, to inflame the minds of the rabble, and "indignation meetings," and "mass meetings," are constantly being held, to denounce the Government for not interfering. All perfect humbug. I have made it my business to collect the opinions of many quiet respectable people, and they all agree in saying they (the pirates) had little else to expect—that

they richly merited their fate. How the matter may end is rather doubtful, and it is said the Creole part of the population have galling grievances to complain of. None but Spaniards born can hold any office in Cuba—that if any family in Havana wishes to give a party, the Governor and all his suite must be invited, or if not, a party of police are sent into the rooms, to see that no treasonable plot is carrying on. Be that as it may, it is palpable a deep-rooted bitter animosity exists in *all* classes against Americans. Yet the fools go by hundreds to aid in a revolution, which, if effected, will as certainly exclude them from place and profit as the Creoles themselves now are.

"But the piratical crew go for plunder and outrage. They know that Havana is a magnificent and wealthy city. They will assuredly meet the fate that all meddlers meet who interfere between man and wife."

The Charlton Heiresses.—Who were these Ladies, and who composed or compose the "London Genealogical Society," by whom three folio volumes, richly illustrated, and now in my possession, were compiled respecting them?

I asked this question of the *London Illustrated News* some time since, and the Editor has not replied to my inquiry, although he professes to have so much heraldic information at his command.

T. C. C.

15th September.

The Roman Antiquities of London.—I perceive that Mr. Roach Smith has announced his intention of publishing, by subscription, an Illustrated Catalogue of his highly interesting Museum. I know not what progress he has made in this work, or what encouragement he has received, but I hope it may be such as to induce him to undertake an account of Roman London. There is no one more capable of doing so, and this should be done before the different articles and relics of that extraordinary people, which have been discovered at various times in the Metropolis get forgotten, lost, or too widely dispersed. For example, I enclose a sketch of an extremely beautiful head of a female, in blue glass, which I saw sold by auction at Messrs. Sotheby and Co.'s, 19th July, 1848. In the Sale Catalogue, it was stated to have been found in an excavation in Leadenhall-street in 1838, and evidently formed the base of a handle to a glass vase.

F. S. A.

History of Betsy Thoughtless.—In looking over the Catalogue of a very curious and valuable library of a deceased friend, I find the following singular note:

"560. History of Betsy Thoughtless, 4 vols. 1762. Lady Morgan says it is much spoken of in France, but she could never meet with a copy of it."

Willis's Price Current of Literature.

As a Subscriber I wish to call the attention of Mr. Willis to the admirable observations made by Lord Seymour at a dinner, recently given to him at Totnes, in acknowledgment of his Lordship having purchased and fitted the Gate House in the High Street of that town, at the cost of over £1000., for the purposes of a Mechanics' Institute, a library and reading room.

His speech is reported at length in *The West of England Conservative, and Plymouth and Devonport Advertiser* of the 10th September. Adverting to the "very reduced prices," at which Standard Works may now be procured, and which would bring them within the reach of all, Lord Seymour remarked—

"It must always be remembered that literature was of no party,—that it did not attach itself to one side or the other,—that all books ought to be fairly read, and all newspapers to be looked at that did not attack good morals, or interfere with the social tendencies of life. Whilst personal controversy might lead to angry disputations, the study of literature was free altogether from that grave objection. Books might combat cherished opinions without giving offence, and might rivet attention when striking at the root of the most stubborn prejudices. As the world advanced, we must advance with it, and as knowledge increased we must increase our knowledge, being fully assured, from past experience, that we should thereby promote our physical as well as our moral well-being."

Unpublished Verses by Ben Jonson.

Sir,—A copy of Heliodorus' Æthiopian History lately came into my possession, on the title page of which was the autograph of "Ben Jonson, tanquam explorator." On the margin of a subsequent page is a translation in the poet's handwriting, suggested as an improvement of the text which is here subjoined.

Inevitable fate to shun
Thou tak'st a world of toil:
For this you left your native home,
And Nile's unrivalled soil.
Take courage, friend, for I will give
Th' Egyptian fields again
To thy despairing eyes; till then
Our guest thou shalt remain.

This work I purchased from Mr. Willis.

A. F. W.

Feltham.

Blackwood's Magazine.—In compliance with the promise made in the last number of Willis's Current Notes, p. 63, a portion of the list of Contri-

butors to this much-esteemed periodical is here reprinted, which the *Morning Advertiser* of the 30th August, in a highly complimentary article respecting *Willis's Price Current of Literature and Monthly Book Advertiser*, is pleased to consider as a "very curious literary document," and one which, "coupled with the "remarkable anecdote connected with it," "must attract some attention, and excite a smile."

H.

Hall, Basil, Captain, R.N.
Hamilton, Sir William, Bart.
Hamilton, Thomas, Captain, H.P.
Hamilton.
Harness, Rev.
Hemans, Felicia.
Hogg, James, Shepherd of Ettrick, Altrive Lake. To be heard of at the Harrow.
Hope, Thomas, 1, Mansfield Street, Deepdece, Dorking, Surrey.
Hope, John, Solicitor-General for Scotland.
Hort, William, Wilmington, N. America.
Howison, William.
Howison, John.
Hughes, Rev.
Hume, David, Baron of the Exchequer of Scotland.

I.

Irving, David, LL.D., Librarian to Faculty of Advocates.
Izzard, Lieut.-General, C.B.

J.

James, G. P. R.
Jameson, Robert, Professor of Nat. Hist. in the University of Edinburgh.
*Johnes, Thomas, Hafod.
Joy, see Baldwin.

K.

Kempferhausen, Philip.
*Kinneder, Lord.
King, Philip P., Lieut. R.N., Mermaid, Timor.

L.

Laidlaw, William.
Landon, Letitia Elizabeth, 121, Sloane Street, Chelsea.
Lauerwinkle, Baron.
Lizars, William.
Lockhart, John Gibson, LL.B., Advocate, 25, Northumberland Street, Edinburgh; Chiefswood, Selkirkshire.
Lockhart, William, Captain Hon. E.I.C.
Lockhart, Rev. Laurence.
*Londonderry, Robert, Marquis of, North Cray, Kent.

M.

M'Conochie, Captain, R.N.
M'Corkindale.
M'Crie, Rev. Thomas, D.D.
M'Kenzie, Henry.
*M'Neil, Hector, Author of "Will and Jean," &c.
M'Neil, Duncan, Advocate Depute, King Street, Edinburgh; Colonsay, Argyllshire.
M'Neil, John, M.D., Teherain Fars, Persia.
M'Queen, James.
Maginn, William, LL.D., 21, Compton Street, Brunswick Square.
Maret, Rev. George, Maidenhead.
Mathews, Henry, the Invalid.
Mathews, Colonel, brother to the preceding.
Menzies, William, Advocate and Mandarin, 101, George Street, Edinburgh; Quang Tcheo Fou, China.
Merivale, J. H., Lincoln's Inn Old Square; 15, Woburn Place.
Mitchell, Rev.
Morehead, Rev.
More, John Shank, Advocate.
Morris, Peter, M.D., Aberystwith.
Muir, D.M., Surgeon, Musselburgh.
Mudge, Colonel Zachary, R.E.
*Mullion, Hugh.
Mullion, Mordecai, M.D.
*Murphy, Jeremiah Daniel, South Main Street, Cork.
Murray, John, 50, Albemarle Street.
Morison, M.D.

N.

Neil, Patrick.
Nicol, Alexander, Professor of Hebrew, Univ. Ox.
North, Christopher.

(*To be concluded in the next Number.*)

Columbanus O'Conor.

Dr. Charles O'Conor spent the early part of his life at Rome, of which place he used always to speak with enthusiasm. It is a custom in Italy on the admission of any individual into the Roman Catholic Church to forbid him the perusal of some particular work. O'Conor's obedience was tried on Macchiavelli's Principe. He returned to Ireland at the time of the French Revolution, and was in Paris, I believe, just after the downfall of Robespierre. His first introduction to the late Marquess of Buckingham was for the purpose of arranging and translating the valuable collection of Irish Manuscripts in his Lordship's possession. He afterwards became domestic chaplain to Lady Buckingham, and on her death, in 1813, remained at Stowe as librarian.

He was a man of mild, and almost timid disposition, liked by every one who knew him, of extensive information; which, however, it was always necessary to draw out. His manners a curious compound of Italian and Irish. Although a strict Roman Catholic, he was extremely tolerant on all religious questions, and in consequence of his letters, under the signature of Columbanus, drew on himself the censures of the Papal See, and was suspended from his clerical functions. This circumstance weighed

long on his mind, but he at length succeeded in obtaining the removal of the censure.

In person he was short and slight, of sallow complexion, and prominent features, but of a venerable appearance; and a stranger would readily have guessed him of the superior class of Catholic priests. He was daily to be seen between Stowe and Buckingham, with his book and gold-headed cane, reading as he walked. Latterly, although by no means of a very advanced age, he became extremely infirm, lost his memory, and nearly his sight; was paralytic, and imagined constantly that people came by night into his room. His apartments at Stowe were the most delightful in that magnificent mansion, where he was always treated with the utmost kindness and consideration. It was necessary at last to have a person continually with him, and when Stowe was shut up, during the absence on the Continent of the Duke of Buckingham, he removed to his brother's, O'Conor Don, where he died.

He was of a convivial disposition, fond of good living and his bottle of Port wine, but never to excess. Claret and fish he abhorred, and a fast day to him was a day of real penance.

His Catalogue of the Stowe Library is a respectable monument of his extensive reading.

Harry Rowe.—I am afraid that your correspondent, W. H. L., is not well acquainted with the Plays of Harry Rowe, otherwise he would have told us more about the one entitled "Macbeth." Permit me, therefore, to direct the attention of your correspondents to "Baker and Reed's Biographia Dramatica, 1812;" where they will find a notice of that very singular person, and also of his publications, which, no doubt, are rather scarce now, although some years ago they might have been procured from Mr. John Stevenson, the Bookseller in Edinburgh, who had a stock of them. I may add that it is now well known that the *real author* of the Plays was Dr. Andrew Hunter, *of York*, the Editor of Evelyn's Sylva and Terra, 4to. 1786-7, who published them for the purpose of assisting Harry Rowe in his long and painful illness.

T. G. S.

25th August, 1851.

Enquiry.—*A subscriber forwards to G. W. the following:*—Can any reader of the "Current Notes" inform G. Willis whether either of the following books exist in any public or private library of this country?

Dufandri (Franciscus) In Flandriæ propriæ incarcerationis et liberationis Historia. Sm. 8vo. Antverpiæ, 1545.

Enzinas (Francisco) Breve descripcion del Paysbaxo y razon de la religion en España. Sm. 8vo. Anveres, 1548.

Bells of Lochmaben Church.

Rammerscales, Lochmaben,
28th August, 1851.

Dear Sir,—Would any of your Archæological correspondents decipher the enclosed inscription, which surrounds the upper part of one of the Bells in Lochmaben Church, Dumfriesshire. There is a tradition that one of them was presented by the Pope to King Robert Bruce; but as the character here appears to be Anglo-Saxon, it could hardly be the same. The other church Bell which looks older, has no inscription whatever.

The letters under the circle are placed two and two at equal distances round the base of the Bell just above the rim.

In case I may not have copied them distinctly, I enclose the slips of paper on which they were taken off with black lead. Should they be worth the printing or engraving, I shall be happy to contribute the sum necessary.

Meanwhile, I am, dear Sir, yours truly,

Mr. Willis. Wm. Bell Macdonald.

G. Willis *respectfully and gratefully declines his correspondent's liberal offer, as he has been assured by more than one gentleman of high Antiquarian attainments, that there is no difficulty whatever in reading the Inscription, which the form of the letters decides as belonging to the* 13*th or* 14*th century, (more probably the latter, but certainly not earlier than the former), so that the tradition is probably correct with reference to the Inscribed Bell, which reads*

+ IOHANNES ADAM ME FECIT +

The letters under the circle read

AVE MARIA.

M. Verbyest.—The following notice is copied from a paper of December 7th, 1849:—"M. Verbyest, the most celebrated book-collector in Europe, or, perhaps, in the world, has just died at Brussels at an advanced age. He had founded a very curious establishment, consisting of a house of ten stories, and as high as a church, and disposed so as to contain 300,000 volumes, arranged according to their subjects."

Perhaps Mr. Willis can tell me something more about M. Verbyest and his Books.

A Subscriber. Δ

Propertius.

Hawkshead, near Windermere,
Sept. 1, 1851.

Sir,—I am obliged by the receipt of your Eighth Number, N. S., and enclose three stamps.

One of your correspondents inquires for an English Translation of Propertius. I believe such a work does not exist. Dr. Nott, the translator of Catullus, and of Select Odes from Hafiz, published

a translation of the first book of Propertius, after the manner of Grainger's Tibullus, with the Latin Text from Vulpius, and excellent critical and explanatory Notes: "Propertii Μονόβιβλος, or that Book of the Elegies of Propertius, entitled Cynthia; translated into English Verse, with Classical Notes. Lond. *Payne*, 1782." In his Preface he states, that he had been told of a translation of Propertius by one Diamond, published some hundred years ago, but was never fortunate enough to meet with a copy.

It is greatly to be regretted that the present Sir Charles Elton, of Clifton, near Bristol, has not given us a translation. He has most elegantly translated about 28 or 29 Elegies, the greater part of which may be found in his "Tales of Romance," published by Murray, in 1810. Some others appeared in the second volume of his "Specimens of the Classic Poets," pp. 235—284. The *Epistle of Arethusa to Lycotas*, Book IV. El. 3; and the *Tale of Tarpeia*, Book IV. El. 4, are printed in his Poems, published by Longmans, 1835.

Other Translations from Propertius are given in the Oxford Miscellany Poems. Lond. 1685.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
D. B. H.

G. Willis *conjectures that the note signed* J. R. *p.* 64, *attached to the Price Current of last month, respecting Athenæus, must have produced this very acceptable communication respecting Propertius; as* G. W. *is not aware that any inquiry was printed by him on the subject.*

German Theology.

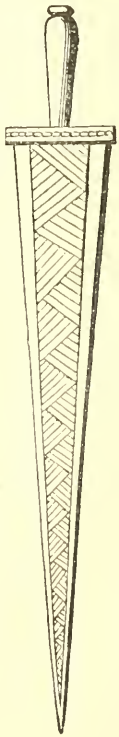
Market Bosworth, Hinckley,
Sept. 5, 1851.

Sir,—As a correspondent I shall be thankful for information upon two authors, connected with German literature. The first is, "Reformations-Geschichte, in einem verbesserten auszug des Herrn Christian Friedrich Junius aus des Herrn Veit Ludwigs von Seckendorf 'Historia Lutheranismi' herausgegeben, und mit Anmerkungen versehen von M. Johann Friedrich Roos.—Tübingen, 1781, 8vo." The first volume came out in that year: the second in 1782. The work begins with a chapter 'on the State of the Christian Church before the Reformation:' it then proceeds to detail, in the form of Annals, beginning with 1517 and ending with 1555, the events of the Reformation with great minuteness and apparent accuracy. Has this work, which forms an admirable appendage to the great work of Seckendorf been ever translated?—If not, should not some one instantly undertake it, and add it, at this critical time, to the weapons "*of proof* ETERNE," in our Protestant arsenal, against the audacious pretences of an unscriptural, superstitious, and idolatrous tyranny? The second point upon which I would request information is this: I have by me a German MS. in thick 4to., entitled "Christliche Glaubens-und Lebens-Lehre, zum Unterricht der Hoch Reichs-Gräflichen Schaumberg Lippischen jungen Herrschaften, verfasset von Johann Heinrich Meister, Hoch Reich's Gräflichen Schaumburgisch Lippishen Hof-Prediger im Jahr 1733, abgeschrieben in Bücksburg von Johann Jacob Meister, im Jahr 1738."—At the end of the volume is a Tract in French, "Examen des Communians, pour l'usage de l'Eglise Françoise de Bucksbourg, par Jean Henri Le Maître, Ministre, 1733," composed, no doubt, by the author of the first work, whose title may be thus translated: "Lessons on the 'Creed and Conduct of a Christian,' composed for the instruction of the young nobility of the Principality of Schaumbourg-Lippe, by John Henry Meister, (as the French has it 'Le Maître'), Chaplain to the Prince, 1733, transcribed at Bücksburg, by John James Meister, 1738." If any of your readers can give me an account of this work and its author, I shall feel greatly obliged.

I am, Sir, yours obediently,
Mr. Willis. A. B. E.

Bronze Dagger.—Any of your Antiquarian Correspondents (of which you appear to have several) would oblige me by informing you whether they have ever seen a bronze dagger similar to the one of which I send you a sketch for engraving, and which, I have been told, was dug up in Germany. Some of my friends call it Roman, others Celtic, and others Scandinavian.

G.



The Book of Common Prayer.—Can you inform me if there is any particular value attached to a Prayer Book, printed in 1710, with some very rude prints in it? I have a reason for asking this question.

T. F. D. C.

G. W. *cannot reply, without further particulars or information. He can procure a copy for his Correspondent for a shilling.*

The Church of England. A Commission was appointed to reform the Church Litany, &c. and were just ready to carry it into effect when William III. died. The document is preserved at Lambeth, and the present Archbishop has allowed Mr. Heywood, M.P. the use of it.

Jean Baptiste Rousseau.

Pontefract, Sept. 17th, 1851.

Sir,—The following anecdote of this eminent poet which I met with for the first time recently, may perhaps, prove interesting to some of your readers if you think it worth printing.

Yours obediently,
A. Z.

"Rousseau is generally acknowledged to be one of the best French poets. He was a shoemaker's son: received a good education; early distinguished himself by his poetical effusions; admired for his talents, and above want, his happiness seemed complete, when a terrible storm gathered and burst over him. The Café de Lament was the resort of the great wits: there might be seen Rousseau, La Motte, Fontenelle, Crebillon, Saurin, &c. An opera called Hésoine, made its appearance. Rousseau directed some satirical verses against it. These produced others of abominable language and tendency. Rousseau was accused as the author of these also: he stoutly disowned them.

In the midst of the confusion which this contest had made, Rousseau cast the blame on Saurin, who immediately commenced a suit of law against him, and accused him of subornation. This charge the Parliament thought sufficiently substantiated: and Rousseau was condemned to perpetual banishment. He retired to Switzerland, became acquainted with the Count du Luc and Prince Eugene, joined the latter at Vienna, lost his favour, and set out for Brussels. In 1721 he arrived in England, where he published an edition of his works. He again visited Brussels, where commenced his quarrel with Voltaire. He paid a secret visit to Paris, and his friends endeavoured to procure a revocation of his sentence, but not succeeding, he returned to Brussels, where he died in 1741. After receiving the sacrament, he publicly declared that he was not the author of the aforesaid vile couplets which had been the cause of all his misfortunes. Prior wrote an epitaph for him as follows:—

Ci-git l'illustre et malheureux Rousseau,
Le Brabant fut sa tombe, et Paris son berceau.

Voici l'abrégé de sa vie,
Qui fut trop longue de moitié
Il fut trente ans digne d'envie,
Et trente ans digne de pitié.

Mill's History of British India *and* Sir Robert Peel.

Mr. Willis,—I will thank you to forward to me the books as per inclosed list. * * * *

The monotony of my passage to Calcutta, for I did not take the Overland route, was agreeably and instructively relieved by the perusal of the volumes which you selected to be my companions. I am particularly pleased with Mill's *History of British India*, edited by Professor Wilson. It is a first-class work, and you may safely recommend it as "a book that no library should be without." Although I see by your *Price Current* that you offer a copy for sale considerably under the price you have charged me, I do not mean to complain of my purchase or your conduct.

The only thing said worth repeating during our tedious passage was by a Naval officer with high Tory prejudices, who, when speaking of the late Sir Robert Peel, bitterly observed: "If I had to write the inscription for his monument, it should run thus:

IN POLITICAL LIFE HE SAILED UNDER
FALSE COLOURS,
BY WHICH MEANS HE BROKE THROUGH
THE ARISTOCRATIC
LINE OF PARTY.

Hill Square, Edinburgh,
29th August, 1851.

Sir,—David Deuchar, the Engraver, died a great many years ago. Two sons still survive him. The address of one of them is "John Deuchar, Esq., Morningside, near Edinburgh," who, I dare say, will give the information C. D. wants—*Current Notes*, p. 60.

I am, Sir, your most obedient servant,
Mr. Willis. A. B.

Djedaleme. Thanked.—Communications must stand over. *An Allegory of Mortality*, in type.

Mr. Hallam, it is reported, resigned the Vice-Presidentship of the Society of Antiquaries of London in order to be more at liberty to take part in the proceedings of the Archæological Institute.—The Lord Bishop of Oxford, it is supposed, will also resign for the same object. There is a strong desire among the more active members of the Institute to obtain a Royal Charter.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Hunt, Thomas. Curer of Stammering. August 18.

Jones, Richard. Actor, Dramatic Author and Teacher of Elocution. 14, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square. Aged 73. August 30.

König, Charles. Mineralogist. British Museum. Aged 78. August 29.

Neill, Patrick, LL.D. Botanist, &c. Cannonmills. Aged 75. August.

Paulus, H. E. G. Doctor of Theology, Philosophy and Laws. Heidelberg. Aged 90. August 10.

Sullivan, Rev. Dr. Samuel. Politics, and Contributor to Dublin University Magazine, &c.

Walsh. Professor of Law. Queen's College, Cork.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. X.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—Shakspere. [October, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "Price Current of Literature."

G. Willis gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes*, which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

Mr. Codd's Library.—G. Willis, throughout the course of his "Current Notes," has endeavoured as much as possible, to keep aloof from intruding himself on the notice of his customers, thinking that their kind contributions were more likely to interest others, and be of value, than any observations he could make. A business transaction, however, in which he has been lately engaged, has caused, it appears by the newspapers, so much public and private discussion in Dublin, and is now attracting a certain degree of attention in London, that he feels called upon, in justice to himself, to reprint the following article that appeared in the "Athenæum" journal of the 18th inst., and which he will follow up by a few observations of his own:—

The booksellers and publishers of Dublin have recently exhibited themselves in a somewhat curious light. The facts as we find them in the Dublin papers are worth stating,—but we leave them to suggest their own comments. It would seem that a Dublin citizen, Mr. Codd, having deserved well of his fellows, was to be by them presented with a testimonial for public services,—and a sum of £500 was raised by subscription for the purpose. Mr. Codd, thinking a piece of plate but an unmeaning sort of thing, preferred that the money should be laid out on a library of books to such extent as it would purchase;—and applied to Mr. Smith, of the firm of Hodges & Smith (publishers to the University), to supply the books, and give a catalogue of the same with their prices. Mr. Smith offered Mr. Codd 1,240 volumes for £500; but declined to annex the prices to each lot, on the ground that the trouble would be too great. Mr. Codd was very naturally dissatisfied:—so, he asked Mr. Willis, of Covent Garden, to furnish a catalogue of what books in standard English literature that gentleman would give for £500. Mr. Willis, it is stated, knew nothing of Mr. Codd; but he at once, like a straightforward tradesman, supplied a catalogue with the price of each work annexed, and the style of the binding specified. With that catalogue in his hand, Mr. Codd—we scarcely see why—applied again to Mr. Smith. He asked the latter to name his prices for each particular lot therein,—but was met with a renewed refusal. On this, the order for the library was executed by Mr. Machen's buying the books in the London market (Mr. Willis supplying a share), and merely charging a commission;—and the result has been, that Mr. Codd has obtained a library, containing upwards of 200 volumes more than Mr. Smith had offered, of the highest class and best editions of English literature. But a very curious part of the matter has to come. Baffled as to the sale on their own arbitrary terms, the Dublin booksellers have ingeniously made the matter an Irish question. Backed by the bookbinders—for some of the books had to be bound in London—they have raised a cry of indignation at the fact of an Irishman buying his library in London, when—as they, with a somewhat curious courage under the circumstances, venture to say—as good value for the money could be given in Dublin. Our readers can scarcely imagine the ill blood that has been caused by this transaction. It will be even difficult for them to understand this new version of the cry, "Ireland for the Irish."

As far as G. Willis's personal knowledge of the affair extends, the above statement needs but little correction. G. Willis's principal establishment in Covent Garden was visited one evening by three gentlemen, perfect strangers to him, who, after approving the general appearance of the stock, &c., observed that they were desirous of procuring, for a particular purpose, a collection of the best books in standard English literature, to the amount of about £500, and requested him to make out a list of such works as he could recommend for that object. No list of books or prices was furnished to him, but they were left to Mr. Willis's experience and practical knowledge of what was required, to suggest. The list was accordingly made out, with the price of each article, and the style of binding affixed, and forwarded to the gentleman who had the management of the affair. After a delay of some weeks, the list, as prepared by Mr. Willis, was approved of, and an order from it, amounting to £325. 18*s* 6*d*, executed. The following extract from a letter from one of the committee, accompanying a cheque for the bill, will speak for itself.

"I cannot conclude this hurried note without declaring, for myself and the committee with whom I have the honour to act, that you have supplied the order, and conducted the entire transaction in a manner which, while it affords them

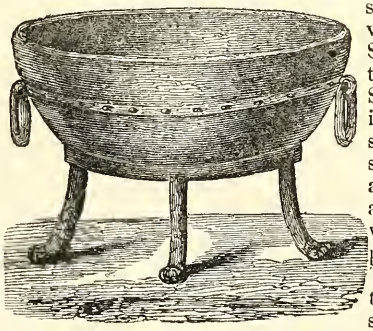
much satisfaction, reflects the greatest credit upon your highly respectable house.

I am, dear Sir, yours very truly,

R. H."

It will thus be seen that this order for books was entirely unsought by Mr. Willis; he was applied to in the usual course of business for that which he is pretty extensively known to be always ready to supply, namely, estimates for libraries, either great or small; and being known to have supplied, with satisfaction both to his customers and himself, many important public, as well as private collections, both at home and abroad, it was not at all surprising that the gentlemen in question, acting for a general body, and not for their own private pleasure, should have addressed themselves to the quarter where they were likely to be best served. For, from the peculiar nature of a bookseller's business, the large capital and constant activity required, it is only in an establishment of the extent and particular facilities of G. Willis's, that a library like that of Mr. Codd's is constantly kept ready to be supplied at a moment's notice on the most economical terms, the prices, of course, increasing considerably when they have to be suddenly collected by a bookseller in a smaller way of business, from various sources, instead of having them ready in the ordinary course of his trade.

Mother Ludlam,—The mention of this hag or witch made in the July Number of your *Notes*, (p. 54), by your Brighton Correspondent, R. S. T., reminds me that her cauldron, of which you have a drawing, is still preserved in the Church at Frensham, a small village on the S. W. verge of the County of Surrey, bordering upon Hampshire. This vessel is of copper, and stands upon an iron trivet, with three expanding legs. The diameter at top is one foot seven inches; and an iron band, strongly riveted, surrounds the middle swell, and is connected on each side with a flat ring-handle, four inches and a half in diameter.



"In the Vestry here," says Aubrey, "is an extraordinary great kettle or cauldron, which the inhabitants say by tradition was brought hither by the Fairies, time out of mind, from Borough Hill, about a mile from hence. To this place if any one went to borrow a yoke of oxen, money, &c. he might have it for a year, or longer, so he kept his word to return it. There is a cave, where some have fancied to hear musick. On this Borough-hill (in the Tything of Cherte), is a great stone lying along the length of about six feet; they went to this stone and knocked at it, and declared what they would borrow, and when they would repay; and a voice would answer when they should come, and that they should find what they desired to borrow at that stone. This cauldron, with the trivet, was borrowed here after the manner aforesaid, but not returned according to promise; and though the cauldron was afterwards carried to the stone, it could not be received: and ever since that time no borrowing there."—"But I do believe that this great kettle was an ancient utensil belonging to their Church House for the use of Αγαπαι, or Love Feasts or Revels."—*Aubrey, Surrey*, vol. iv. pp. 366-7.

Salmon, after remarking that "the great cauldron which lay in the Vestry beyond the memory of man, was no more brought thither from Waverley than, as report goes, by the fairies," says, "It need not raise any man's wonder for what use it was, there having been many very lately to be seen, as well as very large spits, which were given for entertainment of the parish at the wedding of poor maids."—*Surrey*, p. 139.

Grose has connected this cauldron with his account of the White Witch called Mother Ludlam, of whose cave or hole, in the sand rocks under Moor Park, he has given a view. According to his version of the tradition, the venerable old lady, when properly invoked, assisted the poor neighbours by lending culinary utensils, &c.; the business being thus transacted:—"The petitioners went to the cave at midnight, turned three times round, and thrice repeated aloud, 'Pray, Mother Ludlam, lend me such a thing (naming the utensil) and I will return it within two days.' On the next evening the requested moveable was found at the entrance of the cave. This intercourse long continued, until once, a person not returning a large cauldron according to the stipulated time, Madam Ludlam was so irritated, that she refused to take it back, when afterwards left at the cavern, and has never since accommodated any one with the most trifling loan. The story adds, that the cauldron was carried to Waverley Abbey, and after the dissolution of the Monastery, deposited in Frensham Church."—*Grose, Antiquities of England*, &c. vol. v. p. 112.

H. S.

Contributors to Blackwood's Magazine,

(Concluded from last Number, p. 69.)

O.

O'Doherty, Sir Morgan, 2, Shire Lane, Temple Bar. Sanctuary, Holyrood.
Oliver and Boyd.
Omai, the Otaheitan.

P.

Pattmore, Charles, Pawnbroker, Ludgate Hill.
Parry, Captain William Edward, R.N., North Pole, or thereabouts.
Paterson, Walter.
*Petre, Rev. Olinthus, D.D., 2, Botany Bay. Trinity College, Dublin.
Pictet, Professor, Geneva.
*Pius VII., Vatican, Rome.
Phillpotts, Rev. Henry, D.D.

Price ——
Pringle, Thomas, Cape of Good Hope.

Q.

*Quill, Maurice, Surgeon, 32nd Foot.

R.

Rammohun Roy, Garden Reach, Calcutta.
*Ricardo.
Riddell, James, Advocate.
Robinson, David, Augustus-street, Regent's Park.
Robertson, Joseph Clinton, 28, Bennett Street, Stamford Street.
Robertson, Patrick, Advocate.
Rose, W. S.
*Russell ——, Advocate,
Ross, Miss, Ballintery, County of Cork.

S.

Saint Barbe, Rev.
Sandford, D.K. Professor of Greek, University, Glasgow.
Scoresby, William, Jun.
Scott, Sir Walter, Bart., Clerk of Session, Castle Street, Edinburgh ; Abbotsford, Selkirkshire.
Scott, James, T.D., M.D., F.R.S.E., M.W.S. Glasgow Cavalry and Jumble Club, Millar Street, Glasgow.
Seward, C.C.C.
Soligny, Wiscount Wictoria de, Monmouth Street, Seven Dials.
Starke.
Stewart, Albyn.
Steuart, Sir Henry, Bart., Goodman of Allantown.
Stevenson, Duncan, Parliament Stairs, Glenfuddival Lodge, Meadows, Edinburgh.
Sym, Robert, W.S.

T.

*Tamaamaah, King of the Sandwiches.
Thomson, Thomas, M.D.
Thomson, Henry.
Thomson, Rev. A.
*Thurtell, John, Manchester Buildings ; late of Hertford Jail. To be heard of in the Phrenological Society.
Tickler, Timothy, Esq., Southside.
Tims, Tommy, 5, Turnwheel Lane, Cannon Street. To be heard of at the Lyre and Nightingale, alias the Goose and Gridiron, Clapham.
Townsend, Rev. Horace, Derry, Rosscarbery, County of Cork.
Truck, William, Cowgate, Edinburgh.
Tytler, P. F.

U.

V.

W.

Waverley, Author of.
Watts, Alaric A., Commercial Street, Leeds.
Walter, Alexander, Tristan d'Acunha.
Wastle, William.
Wilson, John, Prof. of Mor. Phil. Univer. Edin. ; St. Anne Street, Stockbridge, Edin. ; Ellery, Westmoreland.
Wilson, Robert S., W.S., 53, Queen Street.
Wilson, James.
Wilson, Miss.
Wilson, Mrs., mother to the aboves.
Wrangham, Francis, Venerable the Archdeacon of Cleveland.

X.

Y.

Z.

*Zero-boz, Count.

G. W. *has received, among other agreeable assurances respecting the interest taken in the list here brought to a conclusion, the following letter :—*

Edinburgh, 29th September, 1851.

Sir,—I never saw a document so indicative of the literary humour which existed in the palmy days of Blackwood, and other contemporary periodicals, as that which you have printed ; and humour is a feature in our Literature which has now almost entirely disappeared from it. Whether the publishers or the public may be to blame in the matter, you can probably form a much better opinion than myself. But surely the political squibbing of Punch cannot be compared with the Broadsides of the John Bull, or the Batteries of Blackwood.

Mr. Willis. H. R.

Descendants of Edmund Spenser.—In the *Anthologia Hibernica* for March, 1793, (a Magazine published in Dublin), a Correspondent says,—" I have lately heard that within a few years a lineal descendant and namesake of the celebrated Spenser was resident at Mallow ; that he was in possession of an original portrait of the poet, which he valued so highly as to refuse five hundred pounds which had been offered for it—with many curious papers and records concerning his venerable ancestor."

However this may be, a Correspondent (R. S.) has kindly transmitted (8th October), for insertion in *Willis's Notes* the following advertisement, which he discovered recently in going through a volume in the possession of Mr. Windele of Cork.

From the Cork Evening Post, Thursday, December 28th, 1769.

John Fitzgerald, my indented apprentice, ran away from me the 29th of last month, having near three years of his time to serve. This is to caution the public not to entertain him, as I am determined to act as far as the law directs against all those who shall. Said Fitzgerald is a low, squat fellow, with remarkable thick legs, and the sign of a cut in his lip, about nineteen years of age.

Mallow, Nov. 30, 1769. Edm. Spenser.

Derby, Oct. 3rd, 1851.

Sir,—Can you or any of your readers inform me of the meaning of a phrase sometimes employed to denote the extreme of friendship or confidence between two parties, by saying—" Oh! they're as *thick* as *incle-weavers!*" I have heard it frequently used by the lower classes in the Midland Counties.

Mr. Willis. J. W. T.

Recollections of "Gentleman Jones."

(*Continued from last number.*)

I am not going to follow Richard Jones as the newspapers have done, from date to date, through his theatrical progress, or to chronicle and criticise the various dramatic characters which, in the course of a laborious professional career, he had to personify with more or less of good or ill repute; the former, however, always being in the ascendancy; rather let me save, if Mr. Willis will permit me, a few personal recollections of the man. He is stated to have appeared on the Irish stage in Dublin, 20th November, 1799, where he soon afterwards became a prodigious favourite, especially from his good humour when arrested as a rebel on his journey to Limerick in charge of the wardrobe and properties of the company; among which helmets, pikes, swords, and other defensive and offensive articles were discovered, and upon which occasion a Judge and a Barrister who were travelling the Circuit became his bail.—I think Jones named to me when relating the circumstance, Sir James Chatterton, one of the batch of Union Baronets (1801), and Curran.

The venom of Mr. Wilson Croker's (the Quarterly Reviewer) satire is recorded upon Edwin's Monument in Dublin, to have killed him (1805), instead of as is well known, and as Jones told me, "his friend the Bottle;" but the critical gunnery-range of the subsequent Secretary of the Admiralty fell as far short of crippling "Dickey Jones," as it did Lady Morgan, although the *animus* was keenly felt by both at the time. What Lady Morgan's feelings may be towards her reviewer I cannot say, having never interchanged a word with her Ladyship, nor seen her but twice in the course of my life —once when I remember saving hers at the risk of breaking my arm, for which mi-lady never thanked me—and secondly, when I stood by her side for nearly half an hour, unrecognised, on the 17th July last, and in the crush was unintentionally forced to overhear her odd conversation respecting her Italy, with sundry mustachioed and imperialed foreigners, who, I am told, were Counts and Barons, but whose appearance did their laundress no credit.

I remember, however, kind-hearted, excellent Mrs. Jones once saying to me—"I hate every one of the name of Croker, from 'the great John,' almost to little Crofty Croker—'the fairy man;' and I wish his name was some other. It is the only uncharitable feeling that I believe exists in my heart, for Mr. Croker once gave so much pain to my poor dear Richard, that I can never forget it, and though the barb may be drawn, I feel it there, still rankling in the wound."—Theatrical as these words may appear when written, they evidently came, as Mrs. Jones spoke them, from the fulness of the heart—a deep gush of feeling, not a superficial overflow.

Little are Reviewers aware of the pain their anonymous and often wanton attacks occasion to young and sensitive minds. Jones, however, acknowledged to me, that he never differed in opinion from his wife, except upon this one point, and that he really felt grateful for, and benefited by, Mr. Croker's criticism in 1805, notwithstanding what his wife, in 1825, considered to be the barbed hostility of—

> "Oh! Mr. Richard Jones, your humble,
> Prithee give o'er to mouth and mumble;
> Stand still, speak plain, and let us hear
> What was intended for the ear." &c.

"Instead of taking in ill part," said Jones to me, "the judicious criticism of the *Familiar Epistles*, as most of my associates did, I quietly reflected upon what any body thought worthy of attention, and so far as propriety would admit, deported myself accordingly."

That no hostility existed in after life between the Right Honorable John Wilson Croker and Mr. Richard Jones, is proved, as the latter himself told me, by their mutual friends and correspondence.

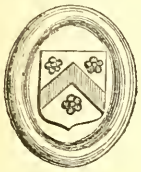
When Mr. Croker became a leader of the House of Commons, upon the grand constitutional question of the Reform Bill, Mr. Jones regularly attended the debates, to watch the effect produced upon that Assembly by the oratory of his former critic; and, I have some suspicion, with the view of turning the tables upon the Statesman and Reviewer. "Croker has got the ear of the House," said Jones to me, "I will say nothing about his arguments, for I am no politician, nor do I desire to meddle in such matters, but you never miss a word he says. He knows how to pause, and how to act with his hands, and how and when to be impassioned. He never throws away his breath. And yet he labours under great physical defects, which any one can easily detect, and which might have been easily overcome if he had made himself up a little more.—All Mr. Croker wants to be the most accomplished orator of our age is a little—a very little more schooling. His criticism schooled me, and I feel and acknowledge my deep debt of gratitude to him for it."

(*The length of this communication prevents its conclusion in the present number, as had been anticipated.*)

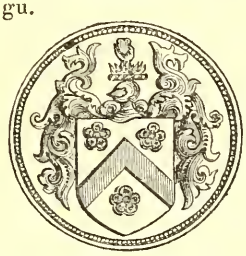
A Recollection of "Gentleman Jones."—Almost my only personal recollection of this general favourite, both on and off the stage, was at the coronation of George IV. where he appeared in the uniform of an hussar officer. The king recognised the individual amid the gorgeous solemnity of the circumstances, and by his Majesty's command I was dispatched to inquire to what hussar regiment that officer belonged. On the message being delivered to Jones, in the most friendly way, by Lord —— the reply was that he humbly conceived that he belonged only to his Majesty's corps dramatique, and would therefore immediately make his exit.

Before he could do so, the answer was communicated to the king, who said, "Certainly not. Tell Jones from me, if he chooses to remain, in that or any other dress, that he cannot feel more gratified at seeing his king than his king has always felt at seeing Mr. Richard Jones." A. B.

Dulwich College. — Edward Alleyn, the founder, bequeathed his "seal ring, with his arms, to be worn by the master and his successors," of which you have herewith a sketch. The arms are, Arg. a Chev. between three cinquefoils, gu.



Alleyn's crest appears on the corporate seal, and is borne on an *esquire's* helmet. An arm couped, and erect, issuing out of flames of fire, and holding a human heart, all proper.



Archæology.—The Hon. Mr. Neville printed two tracts at Saffron Walden, for the purpose of recording his antiquarian researches. One was entitled "Antiqua Explorata, 1847," the other "Sepulchra Exposita, 1848." Can Mr. Willis procure them for his Subscriber? E. P.

No: they were printed by Mr. Neville for private circulation only. G. W.

"The History of the Grand Rebellion, in three vols. Lond. 1713." This scarce work is generally ascribed to *Ned* Ward, but in the "Bibliotheca Grenvilliana" he is called *Henry* Ward. I have looked in vain for any account of that author mentioning this work. It is worthy of remark, too, that in the "List of the Heads, placed as they go in order through the two vols." it contains "The Earl of Lindsey, by Vertue, p. 399," meaning *Montague Bertie*. My copy not containing any such portrait, I made inquiry respecting it, and was told that there never was any print of the kind. I shall be glad to obtain any information on these points. A.

Mr. Dodd's Connoisseur.

The Connoisseur's Repertory, (about which your Correspondent C. B. inquires [August No. p. 60]), by the late Mr. Dodd, was originally published by Messrs. Hurst and Robinson, and was left incomplete in six volumes. Considering how slight a progress in the alphabet Mr. Dodd had made in this voluminous instalment of his Dictionary, the entire work would, in all probability, have occupied 20 vols. Dodd had been a very industrious collector of materials for a history of ancient art, and had accumulated a vast body of facts and anecdotes, wholly unknown to former biographers of the old masters. In the latter years of his life he had a shop in Charlotte Street, Fitzroy Square, for the sale of portraits, of which he possessed a very large collection. When the writer of this note, who had lost sight of him for several years, last called upon him, he was quite deaf, and otherwise infirm. A vacancy in the Charter House suggested an application to Prince Albert, one of the Governors, for his nomination, which was entirely successful. Dodd removed to the Charter House a few weeks afterwards, where, in the society of honest and jocose John Major, Thomas Hurst, and other fallen magnates of the trade, he pursued cheerfully the brief remnant of his existence. It is an agreeable feature of the arrangements of the Charter House, that any business, not calculated to prove a nuisance to others, may be carried on by the pensioners in their respective rooms; so that Dodd was still surrounded by his long loved portraits, illustrated books, and Art Dictionaries, and still continued to supply the few customers that time and the public passion for cheap trash had left him. He was a fine, simple hearted, intelligent old man, and on all matters connected with early Art, illustrated books, and portrait collecting, was without a rival in knowledge in his business. He died full of years (upwards of eighty, I believe), almost the last of his race. The Connoisseur's Repertory ought to have sold extensively; but was published at too high a price, considering the indifferent paper and print of which it was composed. There was, to be sure, a pretext of a L. P. edition, but it presented no great improvement on the small one. When the writer last saw Dodd, his place was lumbered up with boxes, which he said contained manuscript notices and biographies for future volumes of his work. It is to be hoped that these memoranda are still in existence; for they contained the results of his "pains and pulling-down of books" for half a century. The Connoisseur has, I fear, been "made waste of," for it is seldom seen in these days of "run and read" literature. I had almost forgotten to say, that Dodd once dealt largely in autographs, of which he had a good historical knowledge. If the elder Mr. Palser, of the Strand, be excepted, Dodd was the last of the race of well-informed "old print" sellers of his standing, having been engaged in the trade (adopted, as he used to say, because he "liked it") nearly sixty years.

An Amateur, and
One of the First Customers of Mr. Willis.

Mr. Dodd's Connoisseur.—As no reply appears in the last Number of your *Current Notes* to

C. B.'s question in the August Number, p. 60, respecting this work, I can inform him that it never was completed, although I cannot say how far the printing was proceeded with, but about twelve months ago I read in some Magazine a Memoir of Dodd. It was accompanied by a portrait, from which I perfectly recognized the man with whom I had often conversed under very different circumstances, and in various places, but with whose name I was before unacquainted. C.

G. W. *has ascertained that the Memoir referred to appeared in the Gentleman's Magazine for November*, 1850, *p.* 480.

Monograms.

Sir,—Your Correspondent, R. J. C. in the July number of your Notes, corrects a statement made by S. C. R. (which corrected another statement made by J. R.) in the previous number, respecting the dates to be assigned to monograms.

R. J. C. says that monograms were "in fashion" at least one hundred and twenty years prior to 1683 (the date given by S. C. R.) Now in Knight's National Cyclopædia it is stated that "Monograms appeared on our Saxon coins, especially those of King Alfred."

They may, perhaps, have gone "out of fashion," and have come in again after a lapse of years, as is often the case. For fashions change very quickly sometimes, and in some cases are very difficult to establish, *vide* Bloomer Costume.

T. F. D. C.

Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Croker.—The suggested inscription, as given in the last number of your Notes (p. 72), for the late Sir Robert Peel's monument, I have heard attributed to Mr. John Wilson Croker, as delivered by him in an after-dinner speech at a certain Tory naval club. It is, however, certain that Sir Robert Peel and Mr. Croker, although professedly private friends, entertained as statesmen a deadly enmity towards each other, and neither ever missed an opportunity of throwing in a piece of bitter sarcasm. They were, in fact, political rivals, and Croker had not the generosity of Canning. Sir Thomas Lawrence painted the portraits of this illustrious trio about the same time; as they progressed, the one came under the observation of the other—(these portraits are now well known to the public from engravings)—and Canning remarked to Peel that Sir Thomas had caught the very quiver of Croker's lip. "He has, truly," said Peel, "and it is well for him to have missed the venom of its arrows."

N. S. R.

Value of the Letter E.—E. U. thanked; but the couplet is so well known, and has been so often printed, that it can be no "enigma" to the readers of G. W.'s Notes. Can E. U. state in what country church this ingenious piece of literal trifling was written up, or who was the author? These would be curious and acceptable communications.

An Allegory of Mortality.

Wandering among the tombs in the kirkyard of Melrose Abbey, I saw one which bore a singularly quaint inscription.

The earth goeth on the earth
Glist'ning like gold;
The earth goes to the earth
Sooner than it wold;
The earth builds on the earth
Castles and towers;
The earth says to the earth
All shall be ours.

On the other side of the tombstone was, as well as I remember,

James Ramsay, Portioner of Melrose, 1751.

When Longfellow's beautiful work, *Outre-Mer*, came out, I saw in the chapter on Pere-la-Chaise, "An Allegory of Mortality," containing seven stanzas: the Melrose epitaph was taken from the third or fourth stanza. Of this "*Allegory*," the poet says: "I subjoin this relic of old English verse entire, and in its antiquated language, for those of my readers who may have an antiquarian taste. *It is copied from a book whose title I have forgotten, and of which I have but a single leaf containing the poem.* In describing the antiquities of the Church of Stratford-upon-Avon, the writer gives the following account of a very old painting upon the wall, and of the poem which served as its motto. The painting is no longer visible, having been effaced in repairing the church." The painting was the Martyrdom of St. Thomas à Becket. Vide "*Outre-Mer*." Now I should be glad to know *the name of the book* which the poet has forgotten, and what is known respecting the authorship of the poem.

I would also ask who is the author of the beautiful poem that Longfellow quotes in the same book in the chapter headed, "*The Village of El Pardillo*," commencing

"*Your voiceless lips, O flowers, are living preachers.*"

Djedaleme.

Serpent Worship.—Can you or any of your Correspondents refer me to a print or description of an early Christian Stone Cross, which I am told exists in the Churchyard of Landhivet, in Cornwall, and is covered over with rude sculpture, emblematic of the triumph of Christianity over Serpent Worship?

The Rev. I. Bathurst Deane, in his highly interesting work on the "Worship of the Serpent,"

makes no reference to this important National Monument. And before America bears it away from our shores, as I understand we are about to bear away Cleopatra's Needle from the shores of Egypt, I should like to know something more about the matter. F. S. A.

THE CHERTSEY METAL DISH.—An inscription, very similar, if not identical, with the one which has occasioned so much discussion in your *Notes*, may be found engraved as copied from "a small copper dish" in the *Gentleman's Magazine* for September 1804, p. 813, Plate II. fig. 3; but I can trace no explanation of it in that valuable Antiquarian repository. The last communication on this subject, which appears in your *Current Notes* for August, No. VIII. p. 59, signed *T. R. Brown*, severely attacks and shakes, in my mind, the high antiquarian reputation of the late Sir Samuel Meyrick.

Cheltenham, 6th Oct. 1851. T. B.

THE BOOK OF COMMON PRAYER.

SIR,—As you were not able to answer my question which you printed in the last number of your Notes, without further particulars, I beg to state that the Prayer Book in question wants the title page; is in bad condition; that the Table of Moveable Feasts commences with the year 1701; that the date of the authority for printing is 7 February, 1703-4, and the Psalms attached bear the imprint, "London: Printed for the Company of Stationers. MDCCX;" and that it contains forty-four very rude prints (without the engraver's name), some of which, I suspect, have been taken from a Roman Catholic Prayer Book, and inserted. T. F. D. C.

As a made up book, wanting the title page, and in bad condition, G. W. *can give no opinion as to the value, especially as the name of the engraver of the "rude prints," is not given.*

Mr. WILLIS, 1st October.

Can you procure me a copy of a work which I know exists in folio? It is entitled "the Holy Court, in 5 Books, translated from the French of Nic. Caussin by Sir T. H. and others. Printed and sold, Corke, Eugene Swiney, near the Exchange, MDCCLXVII. pp. 869."

Yours,

A SUBSCRIBER.

G. W. *does not remember to have ever seen a copy.*

MOORE'S IRISH MELODIES.—The suppressed Preface to the first number of this National Work (for it truly is so, since illustrated by the exuberant Irish genius and skilful hand of Maclise), dated Dublin, October 1807, which was printed but immediately afterwards cancelled, has been forwarded to G. W., and as he entertains no doubt whatever of its genuineness, or of the high character of his Correspondent, who is most respectfully and gratefully thanked by him, it will appear in the next Number of *Willis's Current Notes.*

O: S: thanked. But so numerous have been the communications respecting the Crystal Palace, and so small the space at G. W.'s command, that he has felt himself under the necessity of declining to record among his *Notes* any notice whatever of this magnificent and triumphant national experiment.

THE GREAT EXHIBITION.—In reply to a French Subscriber, G. W. admits that his countryman, M. Boucher de Perthes, has perhaps the first claim as the originator of the ideas which led to the formation of the Crystal Palace. It is now some years ago since that gentleman, who is distinguished for his learning and philanthropy, called upon the French Government to do precisely what has been effected in England. But it is no discredit to the individuals who induced his Royal Highness Prince Albert to adopt their views, to prove that they have realized the ideas of M. de Perthes, which were published, and were accessible to all.

BURNS' HEROINES.—I inclose a paragraph from a Newcastle paper, which I think is deserving of preservation among your Notes. It is the best among several I have seen in the Scotch papers.

Elgin, 9th October. R. P.

"Mrs. Findlay, relict of R. Findlay, Esq., of the excise, died at Greenock on the 30th ult. Deceased was one of the very few persons, surviving to our own times, who intimately knew the peasant bard, in the first flush of his genius and manhood, and by whom her name and charms have been 'wedded to immortal verse.' She was the 'divine' Miss Markland, thus noticed in the Belles of Mauchline:

"In Mauchline there dwells six proper young belles,
The pride of the place and its neighbourhood a',
Their carriage and dress, a stranger would guess,
In Lunnon or Paris they'd gotten it a'.
Miss Miller is fine, Miss Markland 's divine,
Miss Smith she has wit, and Miss Betty is braw,
There's beauty and fortune to get wi' Miss Morton;
But Armour's the jewel for me o' them a'."

Miss Markland became the wife of Mr. Findlay, officer of excise, Tarbolton, who was appointed to instruct the bard in gauging. The connection thus formed between Burns and Findlay led to the introduction of the latter to Miss Markland, and his subsequent marriage to her in Sept. 1788. Mrs. Findlay was in her 23rd year at the time of her marriage, and in her 86th at her death. Mr. Findlay who was a native of the neighbouring parish of Carmunock, removed with his wife to Greenock, in 1792, where he resided till his death, which took place in 1834, in the 80th year of his age. Findlay was not only the instructor, but the friend of Burns, and was altogether a gentleman whose many excellent qualities caused him to be regarded

by the bard with the highest esteem and the utmost confidence. The fate in life of the six belles was as follows:—Miss Helen Miller, the first named, became the wife of Burns' friend, Dr. Mackenzie, a medical gentleman in Mauchline, latterly in Irvine: Miss Markland is already spoken of: Miss Jean Smith was married to Mr. Candlish, a successful teacher in Edinburgh, and became the mother of the eminent Free Church divine; Miss Betty (Miller) became the wife of Mr. Templeton, in Mauchline; and Miss Morton married Mr. Patterson, cloth merchant, in the same village. Of the fate and history of 'bonnie Jean' (Armour) we need not speak. The survivors are Mrs. Patterson and Mrs. Candlish."—*Glasgow Herald.*

THE GARROTTE.—"The Collar of Torture" mentioned in the June number of your notes, and engraved in the July number, p. 49, is, I suspect, a Spanish garrotte, with the name of which instrument for inflicting death the public have become familiar since the execution of General Lopez.

W. W.

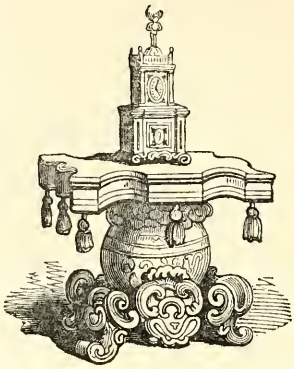
AMERICAN DRINKS

(*From our New York Special Reporter.*)

APPLE JACK,
BEEREE,
BIG THUNDER,
BRANDY SMASH,
BROTHER JONATHAN,
COCK TAILS, OF BRANDY, RUM, OR GIN,
EGG CIDER,
FAR WEST,
FISCAL AGENT,
GUESS MY NAME,
HAIL STORM,
KNICKERBOCKER,
MAGNOLIA,
MINT JULEP,
MILK PUNCH,
PORTEREE, OR JOHN BULL,
RED ROVER,
ROUGH AND READY,
SHERRY COBBLER,
SANGAREES,
TAMMANY TICKLER,
THUNDER AND LIGHTNING,
TIMBER DOODLE,
TIP AND TIE,
UNCLE SAM,
YANKEE DOODLE.

THE UPSAL UNIVERSITY LIBRARY.—The late Archbishop Wingard has bequeathed his valuable library, of no less than 34,000 volumes, with his collections of coins, medals, and Scandinavian antiquities, to the University of Upsal; this being the fourth library bequeathed within twelve months, adding to its shelves 115,000 volumes, or nearly doubling its previous collection, the entire number of volumes being now, with these additions, 288,100 volumes, of which 11,000 are manuscript.

TABLES.—Sir,—I quite agree with the observations of "*An Artist,*" in your "Current Notes" for August last (p. 60), respecting the character that chairs possess, and the importance of the consideration of them as accessories by portrait painters. Permit me also to add that tables do not appear to me to be unworthy of artistic attention; and I therefore send you a sketch of one, which was recently disposed of at the sale of the Earl of Harrington's furniture. It was of Venetian manufacture, and said to have come from the Gradenigo Palace.



Mr. Willis. Yours, &c. A. R. A.

G. WILLIS sincerely thanks the Editor of the *Derby Mercury* for the notice in his paper of 1st October. As a tradesman, G. W. has always endeavoured to maintain the character there given to him. As for the "very considerable amount of interesting literary and antiquarian gossip, generally fresh, and bearing marks of originality as well as authenticity," G. W. is entirely indebted to his very kind Correspondents, and the information confided to him by his liberal customers.

TURNBUCKLE, received too late for insertion.

SHAFTESBURY HOUSE will be attended to.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

BAKER, George, author of the History of Northamptonshire, aged 71. October 12.

COOPER, James Fenimore, American novelist, Cooperstown, New York. 14th September, aged 62.

DAVIS, Lieut.-Colonel (late 52nd Regiment), draftsman and musician.

GUTZLAFF, Rev. Mr. Chinese scholar. 9th October. Aged 48.

LEE, Alexander, musical composer, Newton Terrace, Kennington. 6th October.

RICHARDSON, James, African traveller, Unguratua, six days distant from Kouka, the capital of Bornou. 4th March.

SHERWOOD, Mrs. Juvenile Works, Yelverton Place, Twickenham. 22nd September. Aged 77.

TYLER, Rev. James Endell, Life of King Henry V. 5th October. Aged 62.

TYSON, William, Esq., F.S.A., Antiquary, Dove Street, Bristol. Aged 67.

WINGARD, Dr. Thomas, Archbishop of Upsal and Primate of Sweden. Aged 71.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES

FOR THE MONTH.

No. XI.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—Shakspere. [November, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. Willis gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes*, which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

THE SUPPRESSED PREFACE TO MOORE'S IRISH MELODIES.

"Of the Melodies contained in this number, there are a few which have long been familiar to the world, but they are so beautiful and so authentic that the collection would be incomplete without them; besides it is hoped that the novelty of their present arrangement will, in some degree, remove that triteness which their popularity has given them. The other Melodies are but little known, and many of them though suited to poetry, and the voice, by the regularity of their form, and the limits of their compass, are now for the first time associated with English words.

"The value of those airs, which Sir John Stevenson has harmonized, is considerably enhanced by the skill and elegance with which their parts and accompaniments are managed; and they lead us to think, by the facility with which they admit of such arrangement, that our Melodies, in general, from indulging less in those irregular intervals, those mutilations of the scale which characterize the old Scotch music, are much more amenable than the latter to the laws of harmony and counterpoint.

"With respect to the verses which I have here written for this work, as they are intended rather to be sung than read, I can answer for their sound, with somewhat more safety than their sense; yet it would be affectation to deny that I have given much attention to the task, and that it is not through want of zeal or industry, if I unfortunately disgrace the sweet airs of my country, by poetry altogether unworthy of their taste, their energy, and their tenderness.

"Our history, for many centuries past, is creditable neither to our neighbours nor ourselves, and ought not to be read by any Irishman who wishes either to love England or to feel proud of Ireland. The loss of independence very early debased our character, and our feuds, though frequent and ferocious, but seldom displayed that generous spirit of enterprise with which the pride of an independent monarchy so long dignified the struggles of Scotland. It is true, this island has given birth to heroes, who, under more favourable circumstances, might have left in the hearts of their countrymen recollections as dear as those of a Bruce or a Wallace: but success was wanting to consecrate resistance, their cause was branded with the disheartening name of treason, and their oppressed country was such a blank among nations, that like the adventures of those woods which Rinaldo wished to explore, the fame of their actions was lost in the obscurity of the place where they achieved them—

> ——— Errando in quelli boschi
> Trovar potria strane avventure, e molte;
> Ma come i luoghi, i fatti ancor son foschi,
> Che non se n' ha notizia le più volte.
>
> *Ariosto*, Canto iv.

"Hence it is that the annals of Ireland, through a long lapse of six hundred years, exhibit not one of those themes of national pride, from which poetry borrows her noblest inspiration; and *that* history which ought to be the richest garden of the Muse, yields nothing to her here but weeds and cypress! In truth, the poet who would embellish his song with allusions to Irish names and events, must be content to seek them in those early periods when our character was yet unalloyed and original, before the impolitic craft of our conquerors had divided, weakened, and disgraced us: and the only traits of heroism which he can venture at this day to commemorate, with safety to himself or perhaps with honour to the country, are to be looked for in those times when the native monarchs of Ireland displayed and fostered virtues worthy of a better age; when our *Malachies* wore collars of gold which they had won in single combat from the invader, (see Warner, Book 9, Vol. I.) and our *Brians* deserved the blessings of a people, by all the most estimable qualities of a king. It may be said indeed that the magic of tradition has shed a charm over this remote period, to which it is, in reality, but little entitled; and that most of the pictures which we dwell on so fondly, of days when this island was distinguished amidst the gloom of Europe by

the sanctity of her morals, the spirit of her knighthood, and the polish of her schools, are little more than the inventions of national partiality—that bright but spurious offspring which vanity begets upon ignorance—and with which the first records of every people are obscured. But, the sceptic is scarcely to be envied who would pause for stronger proofs than we already possess of the early glories of Ireland; and were even the veracity of all those proofs surrendered, yet who would not fly to such flattering fictions, from the sad degrading truths which the history of latter times presents to us?

"The language of sorrow, however, is, in general, best suited to our music, and with themes of this nature the poet may be amply supplied. There is not a page of our annals which cannot afford him a subject; and while the national muse of other countries adorns her temple with trophies of the past, in Ireland, her altar, like the shrine of Pity at Athens, is to be known only by the tears that are shed upon it; '*Lacrymis altaria sudant*' (Statius. Thebaid, lib. 12.)

"Dublin, October, 1807."

Bernard Barton (*the Quaker Poet.*)

"Last summer, when I was at Woodbridge, the verses which I inclose were given to me by mine host of the Crown Hotel (Mr. Goodwyn, pronounced Goodwine, no bad popular recommendation for an inn-keeper, to public favor,) as having been copied from a pane of glass on which they had been inscribed by Bernard Barton.

The landlord of the Crown very politely offered to shew me the pane of glass, but my time did not permit of his doing so. He however assured me that the verses are unpublished."

T. C. C.

10th November, 1851.

Though frail, alas! this tablet prove,
As all may well allow;
Yet still more frail is woman's love—
More insecure her vow.

For ever till this crystal pane,
In shivered fragments lie,
These lines may uneffac'd remain,
And prompt a smile or sigh.

But write thy name, poor love-sick youth,
On Chloe's fickle heart,
Hear her repeat her vows of truth,
And for one hour depart.

I'll stake my life if thou return,
And o'er that tablet cast
A searching eye, thou'lt not discern
One relic of the past.

The Royal Literary Fund.—Miss Burdett Coutts has presented a donation of £50. to this Corporation.

"There's nae luck about the house." T. B. B. thanked (Burnley, 3rd Nov.;) but G. W. is obliged to abridge his communication respecting the writer of this popular song, who, according to Weir's History of Greenock was Jean Adam, born about 1710. She became a Schoolmistress—gave Shakespearian readings to her pupils, and admired Richardson's Clarissa Harlowe so much that she walked to London to see the author. Jean Adam published a small volume of poems, printed at Glasgow in 1734, which met with little encouragement, and a large portion of the edition was exported for sale to Boston in America. Towards the close of her life she became a wandering beggar; died in the Poor House of Glasgow, on the 3rd April, 1765, and was "buried at the House expense."

An Allegory of Mortality.—The epitaph in "Willis's Current Notes," p. 78, will be found in "Morton's Monastic Annals of Teviotdale," p. 254, Edinburgh, 1832; and occurs as a citation in "Duncan's Sacred Philosophy of the Seasons."

Sylvanus.

An Allegory of Mortality.—The lines given under this title in the last number of your Current Notes, and from thence copied into the *Northampton Mercury* of 1st November, are well known, and I believe them to be very old popular verses, the authorship of which it may be difficult to point out. I have been told by a reading friend, that he remembered having seen them in one of the Harleian MSS. At all events, those you have printed may be found in the Gentleman's Magazine for March, 1824, where "Mr. J. Lawrence, of Somers Town," states, that in 1770 he saw these lines, inscribed in letters of gold in one of the attics—the sleeping-room of a cow boy—at Beaumont Hall, a few miles distant from Harwich. It was then (upwards of eighty years ago) the residence of Mr. Canham, and Mr. Lawrence's communication would lead the reader to infer that "the golden verses" in question were the composition of this cow boy, but this is not probable.

T. R.

"The late Samuel Beazley, whose departure from this life is not, as it should have been, chronicled in the Literary and Scientific Obituary of *Willis's Current Notes* for last month, was, as you well remember, as pleasant and as worthy a fellow as yourself, and somewhat more of the humourist. We both knew him perfectly. 'Alas, poor Yorick!' —His death was rather sudden; a sad verification of poor Hook's prophetic epitaph—

HERE LIES, ALAS! SAM. BEAZLEY,
WHO LIVED HARD, AND DIED EASILY."

(*Cut from a letter and inclosed to* G. W. *by a customer.*)

Bombard is defined by Dr. Nares, in his Glossary, as "a sort of cannon," and also "a *very large drinking vessel, made probably of leather*, to distribute liquor to great multitudes, named perhaps from its similarity to a cannon." *See* Tempest, ii. 2, and 1 Henry IV. ii. 4, &c.

Heywood, in his "Philocothonista," enumerating various kinds of drinking vessels, mentions among others "the great black jacks *and* bombards at the Court, which, when the Frenchmen first saw, they reported at their return into their countrey, that the Englishmen used to drinke out of their bootes." This and the following passage in Shirley's *Martyred Soldier*—

> "His boots as wide as the black-jacks,
> Or bombards toss'd by the king's guards,"

1. 2.

appear to be the authority for considering Bombards to have been made of leather. It seems more probable that they were large iron jugs, similar to 2, here figured in conjunction with a leather black jack, 1; although it must be admitted that we read of leathern cannon. C.

American Drinks (*Second Edition*). Brigham's List.—Nothing bangs Boston, that which I send will enable you to go a-head with the *Classics*. Your New York special hand is a slow youth, I guess—up to nothing—down to everything. Why, he says, you may drink Sherry Cobbler in the States. Now at Boston you can have var'ties of Cobbler, such as Arrack, Claret, Peach, and Rochelle. He lists at New York Milk Punch. At Boston you can have likewise Arrack Punch, Cherry Punch, Epicure's Punch, Iced Punch, Peach Punch, Poor Man's Punch, Soda Punch, and Spiced Punch. That's going a-head at the rate of eight knots; but Boston boys can go it at nine in splicing the main-brace, and yet not be three sheets in the wind, I calculate. There's Julep, plain Mint Julep, fit only for the main meridian of New York, I reckon—but Boston boasts its Arrack, Capped, Claret, Fancy, Mixed, Peach, Pine Apple, Race-horse, and Strawberry Juleps. That's plain sailing, and then, only let go the circular wind of a word at Boston, up starts—Ching Ching—and Deacon, and Egg Nog, and Exchange, and Citronella Jam, and Floater, and Jewett's Fancy, and I. O. U. and Moral'Suasion, and Ne Plus Ultra, (but that's not half far enough down West for Boston Meridian, which is all spiced Telegraphy, so go it to) Pig and Whistle, and Ropee and Sargent, and Shamboo and Sifter, and Silver Top and Smasher, and Split Ticket and Stone Wall, and Tippe na pecco and Tog, and Tom and Jerry, and Veto and Virginia Fancy, and I am yours, &c., the last of all the two dozen of Drinks 'bettically arranged. Vox Populi.

G. Willis, 'Squire.

Recollections of "Gentleman Jones."

(*Concluded.*)

I should prolong my letter to the length of "an unwarrantable intrusion," did I relate any thing beyond the following recollection of my deceased friend.—Joining him one day in his usual afternoon walk in Hyde Park, our conversation turned on the value to be attached to traditions. Jones smiled at the idea conveyed by my words, "the value of tradition," and repeated them, adding—"*The value of oral traditions?* Well, it reminds me of what occurred to Mathews and myself, when we were travelling together from Limerick to Cork. We posted it. And stopped to dine at Buttevant, a small and dirty village, for no other reason than that Mathews wished to see the landlady, Mrs. Casey by name, and who he fancied must be a character, from O'Keefe's song of

> 'Come rhino rattle,
> Come men and cattle,
> Come all to Mistress Casey.'

While dinner—a rasher of bacon and eggs—was being provided and cooked, and our horses refreshed, we strolled out to see the lions of Buttevant. There was but one—the ruined Abbey, with a huge pile of skulls and bones beside the entrance. 'Sad relics of mortality,' observed Mathews, 'where could they all have come from?'—and then observing an old woman, counting her beads beside a neighbouring tombstone, he turning towards her, repeated the question. "The reply," said Jones, "was so ridiculous—so perfectly ridiculous—that it at once stamped upon my mind *the value of oral tradition.* 'Come from?' was her rejoinder; ''twas from a battle, where Alexander the Great was killed, that was fought hereabouts, and these are the brave bones of his soldiers.' "Mathews," said Jones, "stuffed his handkerchief into his mouth to prevent his laughing outright—repeating to me, with a chuckle which I shall never forget, as we returned to our inn, 'Alexander the Great—Alexander of Macedon, and the brave bones of all his soldiers, too, at Buttevant!' And now so much for the value of oral tradition?"

"Alexander the Great," said I, "if you please, Jones—(not Alexander of Macedon) and the brave bones of all his soldiers, too, at Buttevant, and so much for the truth of oral tradition. I suppose you consider yourself as not badly read in Shakespere?" Jones nodded assent, as much as to say, "Go on."

"And in Milton—one of our classics also?" Another nod. "And remember his sonnets?"

'Why is it harder, sirs, than Gordon,
Colkitto or Macdonnel, or Galasp?
These rugged names to our like mouths grow sleek.'*

Now, who was 'Colkitto or Macdonnel,' but Sir Alexander Macdonald—the Colkitto or left-handed Macdonald, who was butchered in 1647 by the Parliamentary troops, with his band of mercenary highlanders, or 'red shanks,' at Knockninoss, a few miles distant from Buttevant. And who was, therefore, the Irish Ollistrum More, or *Alexander the Great*, spoken of in translation by the old crone?" After this explanation, Jones remarked to me, "Do you remember what my wife said the other day, when she told you how we commenced life?" In my turn I nodded assent. "When her mother's guinea dropped from the tea paper? Now you have settled my belief that there must always *be something in everything*." And thus only would Richard Jones gracefully allude to himself, his opinions, or his fortunes. He was no egotist, but never declined the straightforward path of simple truth, when it was his course.

There are in Lady Chatterton's *Home Sketches and Foreign Recollections*, published just ten years ago, many graphic bits of writing, but none which to my mind so forcibly recalls the portraits and the place as the following sketch of Mr. and Mrs. Jones in their neat house, 14, Chapel Street, Belgrave Square, where they had constantly resided for upwards of forty years:—

"Mr. and Mrs. J—— are people whose sunny countenances seem made on purpose to cheer their fellow-creatures, and inspire them with hope even in the midst of fog and melancholy. The very aspect of their rooms is exhilarating; yet they are small, and furnished without any show or expense. A vine which grows at the back of the house half conceals the windows with its luxuriant branches; and some fresh flowers in the rooms are fit emblems of those who reared them. This couple, who have passed through life not without their full share of suffering, nor in a path devoid of temptations, have yet retained a youthful buoyancy of temper, and are now not only happy themselves, but are sure to inspire those who see them with the same feeling.

"The room which I prefer is a small library upstairs. It is so different from any other room I ever saw—evidently that of a person who has sought and found the best way to attain as much real happiness as this world can afford—the dwelling-place of a mind determined to pursue in the most rational manner the narrow path that leads to eternal life. Even to look at the titles of the well read books in this room always gives me a thrill of delight.

"Here, where so many clergymen have received improvement, we sought to obtain it also, by requesting Mr. J—— to read the Lord's Prayer, with his comments upon it, of which we had heard so much. He replied, that justice could never be done to that divine composition by merely reading; it must be prayed, not read. This he did in the most effective manner; and his remarks upon it gave us quite new ideas on that beautiful prayer. I was particularly struck with his manner of offering up the petition, "Forgive us our trespasses as we forgive them that trespass against us," the latter part of the sentence being given with that humility of tone which he explained to us was absolutely necessary to make the sense clearly understood."

The Sale of Mr. Jones's Library will commence on Monday, the 24th November.

Another Recollection of "Gentleman Jones.—"In some respects," writes an esteemed correspondent, "he reminded me of Walker, the author of the *Pronouncing Dictionary*, and other philological works of merit. Walker, like Jones, became a Preceptor in oratory, and proved himself well qualified for such a profession both by his precepts and example; and no work except the Bible was more valued by Jones than Walker's Dictionary. Of Walker, it has been said by Mr. Cooke, in his Memoirs of Foote, that—

"In the recital of the sublime passages of Milton and our best poets, he (Walker) has long been justly celebrated; and the Editor of these volumes once heard him read the Lord's Prayer in a tone of such fervour and piety, as excited a wish that the powers of this impressive science might be more cultivated by the professors of our holy religion."

Another Recollection of "Gentleman Jones."—G. Willis has to thank the Editor of the *Hampshire Telegraph and Sussex Chronicle* for forwarding to him the following communication:—

"Havant, Oct. 27.

"Dear Sir,—I inclose a true anecdote of Richard Jones. It has never been published before. The circumstances were all known to me.

T. C. H."

A young clergyman, whose congregation suffered as well as himself from his ineffectual attempts to make himself heard, was recommended by a friend to take a course of instruction in reading under Mr. Jones. Like most of his brethren, the Curate's finances were very limited, and he called on Mr. Jones in fear and trembling that he would be unable to meet the expense of the course. At the first interview Mr. Jones, with delicate tact, perceived the young man's confusion. He led the conversation to the subject of Curates' stipends. This afforded the quaking Oxonian an opportunity of alluding to his own circumstances. He was a widow's only son, and his means very limited. Nothing more was then remarked. At the conclusion of the series of elocutionary lessons, the young man thanked Mr. Jones for his aid (and so did the congregation in the country parish), and begged to know how much he was indebted. "Nothing,"

* XI. Works of Milton, by Rev. John Mitford, Vol. I. p. 163.

said Mr. Jones. "Impossible," replied the Curate, "my feelings will not allow of your acting thus to me." Mr. Jones reminded him of their conversation, and said, "My young friend, I admire your honourable feelings—I will not wound them—I will agree with you that you shall pay me—when you are a Bishop." The Curate could say no more. He made his best acknowledgment and obeisance and went his way, picturing to himself how his lean figure would look in the episcopal lawn.

Steel Chairs.—In some notes respecting Wiltshire which are before me, I find mention made of a Steel Chair—at Longford Castle—said to be "a great curiosity," executed at Augsburg in 1575, divided into more than 130 compartments, representing the history of Rome, from the landing of Æneas to the time of the Emperor Rodolphus II., for whom it was executed.

The Sons of Noah.

25th Sept. 1851.

Sir,—I have either read or been told, I forget which, that the names of the three sons of Noah, Ham, Shem, and Japhet, translated from the Hebrew, signify White, Red, and Black.

If this is the case, will it not distinguish the three races of mankind, European, Asiatic, and African?

Yours,

Mr. Willis. O. S.

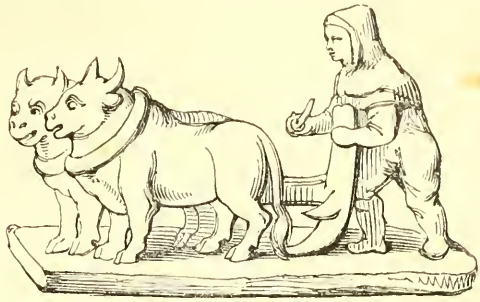
Epitaphs.

M. N. thanked. But as no particular object appears to be in view, and the publication would probably lead to several similar communications, G. W. respectfully declines printing in his Current Notes the epitaph on Captain Roger Tweedy at Rotherhithe.

He admits that it is not printed in *Lysons's Environs*, although the worthy Captain is there mentioned as a benefactor to the parish.

Ploughing by Steam.—Lord Willoughby de Eresby has circulated extensively his plan for ploughing by steam among my agricultural friends in central England, and I find it even upon the tables of certain West Indian proprietors, by one of whom it was denounced as "Humbug, like Kossuth"—and that I might put the plan in my pocket and look over it at my leisure. Having done so, and finding that it is not privately circulated, but published by Ridgway in Piccadilly, this plan fairly becomes subject to critical remark.

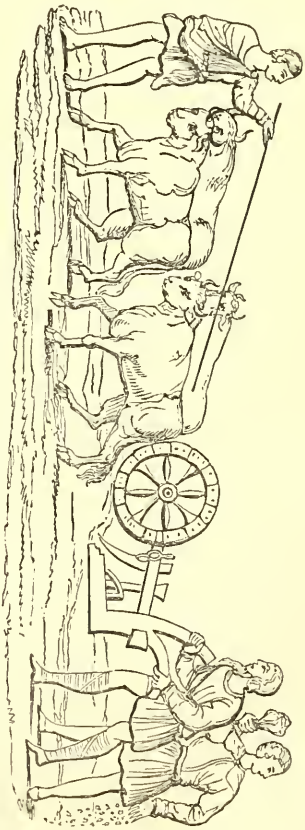
Although not called upon by his Lordship to make any observations or admissions, I will at once, as a practical farmer, declare that few important agricultural instruments have received or deserve more attention, and none have derived less benefit from science, than the plough. To illustrate this assertion, let any one look at the



Roman Plough,

of which I send you a sketch, accurately copied from an ancient bronze, and the faithfulness of which I think cannot be questioned. Then, look at the

Wheel Plough,



which was well known to our Saxon ancestors, as proved by the Cottonian MS., (Tiberius, B. v.) in the British Museum. Mr. Willis, I feel convinced that there are some of your Correspondents far better qualified to write an Antiquarian Essay upon Ploughing Matches than myself; for, if I mistake not, I heard one of them assert only a few days ago, when I had the pleasure of meeting him in Lincoln, that a drawing or print had been shewn to him by the late Mr. Douce, representing in the time of our Elizabeth Irish horses, 'hobbies' as I think he called them, harnessed by their tails to the plough to make them go up hill. Well, this very 'go-a head' work reminds me that Lord Willoughby de Eresby

fairly enough sums up his case against himself, when he says, "The machinery is only calculated for the cultivation of flat land." But previous to this valuable admission, his Lordship says—

"In the present state of things, it is difficult to form a correct estimate of the value of the invention, in a commercial point of view. I will only say, that a machine of the power,* and with the arrangements, described, would perform the work usually done by sixteen ploughs, driven by as many men, and drawn by thirty-two horses. Requiring itself the attendance of eight men, and a horse to draw the water for the engine, it would thus save the labour of thirty-one horses and eight men. Against this must be set an expense of five shillings a-day for coals, as well as ten per cent upon the value of the machinery, say three shillings a-day upon an original cost of £450 to £500. This latter item, however, would be fully compensated by the saving in the interest of capital nowlaid out on horses."

Now this appears to be all very plausible; but the writer questions, if his Lordship's pamphlet will induce any rational farmer to invest £500 in the speculation of Steam Ploughing, which can only be adapted for flat land; at least I should consider any one doing so to be *flat* enough himself.

Your obedient servant,
AGRICOLA.

Bakewell.

THE HOLY COURT.

Landscape Terrace, Cork, Oct. 27, 1851.

DEAR SIR,—Will you kindly inform your Correspondent, who asks for a copy of "the Holy Court," by Nic. Caussin, published in *Corke*, MDCCLXVII.—that he can easily procure his choice of several offered for sale here. The work is a reprint of an edition published in London A.D. 1650, a copy of which was sold with some clearings of my library by Sotheby in August, 1850.

Yours very truly,
W. C. NELIGAN, LL.D.
Rector St. Mary Shandon, Cork.

Mr. WILLIS.

CAUSSIN'S HOLY COURT.—G. J. thanked for his letter of 27th October. His communication respecting Caussin's Holy Court was forwarded to G. W.'s esteemed "SUBSCRIBER," whose letter was inserted in the last Number of *Current Notes*, p. 79. In reply, the "SUBSCRIBER" requests G. W. to express to his Norwich Correspondent "many thanks for the offer so kindly and liberally made by him," but to add, that it is the edition printed at Cork in 1767 he particularly wishes to consult; observing, that he was equally aware with G. J. that such edition had not been noticed by either Lowndes or Watt.

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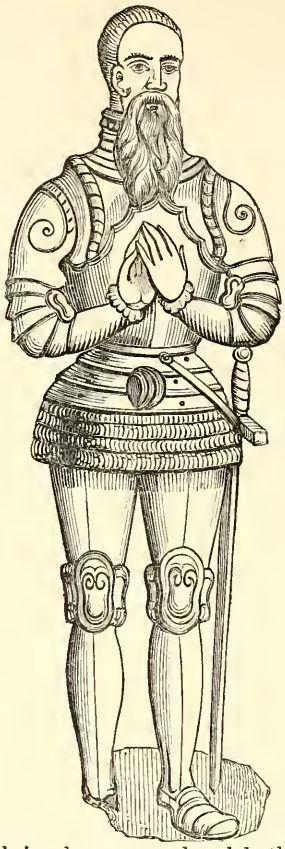
* The "California," a locomotive engine, weighing 3½ tons, and of twenty-six horse power, designed by Mr. Gooch.

MONUMENTAL BRASSES.—The term *Palimpsest* is given by those who have made this subject their study, to brasses engraved on both sides, which are by no means uncommon. Mr. Waller refers to an example at Burwell in Cambridgeshire. Another may be mentioned in the Church of Cobham in Surrey (here engraved.) It is that of



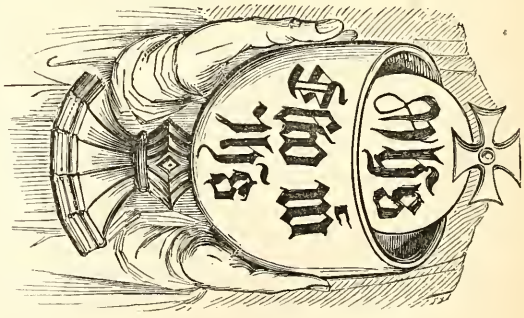
JAMES SUTTON

who died in July, 1530, on the back of which is a much earlier engraving of a half-length, of an Ecclesiastic holding up before his breast a

CHALICE OR SACRAMENTAL CUP.

"It would seem, therefore," observe Messrs. Brayley and Britton, in their History of Surrey, "that memorials of this description were, after the Reformation, occasionally dissevered from the original slabs, and re-engraved for secular persons." And Mr. Waller observes that when from a brass being loose upon the slab, there is an opportunity of making an examination of the back it "*should never be omitted.*"

F. W.



MORGAN COLMAN, who wrote poetry or verses in Elizabeth's reign.—Is any thing known of him or his writings?

T. C. C.

THE LATE WILLIAM WYON, ESQ., R.A.—A Biography of this accomplished Medalist was printed for private circulation in 1837 by the late Mr. Nicholas Carlisle, Secretary of the Society of Antiquaries, 8vo. pp. 213, with a Postscript of 63 pages, which was followed by a Supplement of 17 pages more. Copies have occurred but rarely for sale.

A Correspondent, referring G. W. to this Memoir, has supplied the following whimsical anecdote of Mr. Wyon. Passing an old print shop in Maiden Lane, a print marked 1*d.* caught his eye, and he went in to purchase it, when he found that he had forgotten his purse, and had only in his pocket a new crown piece which he had seen struck that morning at the Mint. This he tendered to the woman of the shop; but, crowns then not having come into general circulation, she hesitated about changing it—and looked again and again at its brightness. "What," said Wyon, "I suppose you think that it is not good?—But I can assure you that I myself saw it coined this morning." The woman went into a back parlour, from which shortly after issued her husband, who went out for and returned with a constable, to whom Wyon was given in charge as a forger and passer of bad money. Nor was my friend released from this unpleasant situation until he had sent for me to identify him, and state that he was an Officer of the Royal Mint.

ORDER OF CIVIL MERIT.—The periodical press is clamorous for the institution of an Order of Civil Merit, particularly with reference to the case of Mr. Dilke, considering that the bracelet which graciously decorates the arm of his wife cannot adorn his breast or peep through the button-hole of his coat. So far back as 1839 Mr. Carlisle raised this cry in the preface to his work on the Orders of Knighthood, when he said, "I may safely predict that the Institution of a Civil Order would obtain the unanimous approbation of the British people, and that every national expression of gratitude would be offered at the foot of the throne for such an act of wise and liberal policy—an act the more auspicious, as gracefully marking the commencement of the reign of a young and lovely Queen."

However, Mr. Carlisle, who has marshalled his knighthoods and titles to the extent of sixteen lines, upon what may well be called the title-page of his book, from which I have made this quotation, may have felt upon the subject of decorations, I feel satisfied that Mr. Dilke holds a far higher rank in public estimation than if he had accepted any title whatever. T. C. E.

SAINT HIBBALD.—Who was this Saint, and where may some account of him be found? He is said to have been buried at Hibbaldstowe, near Kirton in Lindsey. K. P. D. E.

AS THICK AS INCLE WEAVERS.

Warrington, 10th Nov. 1851.

SIR,—Your correspondent, J. W. T. will find the phrase, "Thick as incle Weavers," to have originated from the following circumstances,—Incle is a narrow kind of tape, often striped blue and pink, or blue and red, and used by tailors. Being so narrow, the loom in which it was woven was also narrow; that is, when the hand loom was in use, therefore the weavers must necessarily be very close together, or as they say in Lancashire, "Thick on the sod." And from the fact of being so closely packed together originated the phrase of "Thick as incle weavers." Yours respectfully,

A. Z.

AS THICK AS INCLE WEAVERS.

IN reply to the inquiry of your Derby correspondent, J. W. T., of Oct. 3rd. page 75, I beg to state I have in my possession an old dictionary, originally begun by the late Rev. Thos. Dyche, schoolmaster at Stratford-le-Bow, author of the Guide to the English Tongue, the Spelling Dictionary, &c. Incle is there stated as a sort of tape, used by women to tie their coats, aprons, &c. made of cotton, also a sort of cotton used by weavers to shoot with silk or thread, in some sorts of broad goods. The word is now becoming old, as I do not find it in the more modern dictionaries. The phrase is used in Lancashire. Also as thick as ever they can be, meaning as friendly as ever they can be; hence when the weavers are at work plying their loom, it is natural to suppose an interwoven attachment of esteem will arise where an assimilation of mind and heart exist; hence the phrase, "As thick as Incle weavers."

Should the above be considered a sufficient explanation or should any other give a better, you are at liberty to insert it or not at pleasure.

E. U.

MR. WILLIS.

INKLE OR INCLE WEAVERS?

Burnley, Oct. 29th, 1851.

SIR,—Allow me to correct an error in your Correspondent's question in your Notes for October; he spells the word inkle with a *e* instead of a *k*; it ought to be "inkle weavers," the weavers of it being weavers of a kind of narrow linen tape.

Yours, &c.

MR. WILLIS. T. B. B.

THOMAS HOOD.—W. S. wishes to know the precise date of Thomas Hood's death; and when and where his famous 'Song of the Shirt" first appeared?" adding, '*These are melancholy inquiries.*"

Sharp, the Engraver of that fine work of Art, John Hunter's portrait, died on the 25th July, 1824, at Chiswick—an old man—I should say between seventy and eighty. He was one among the number of many clever, weak, but well meaning persons whom I have known that believed in the Prophet Brothers, whose portrait he engraved with the following inscription under it:—

"*Fully believing this to be the man appointed by God, I engrave his likeness.*" "W. Sharp."

He was buried in Chiswick Churchyard, where the remains of Hogarth, De Loutherbourg, Ugo Foscolo, and Sir George Staunton, repose.

S. D.

"Ward's History of the Grand Rebellion. 3 vols. London, 1713." *Current Notes*, Oct. p. 77. "In reply to the quere of A. I beg to state, that at p. 399 of my copy there is a portrait of 'Lord Lyndsey, from a painting at ye Duke of Ancaster's. Vandike pinxt. Vertue sculp.'"

F. C. B.

The Portrait of Montagu Bertie, Earl of Lindsey, enquired after by A. in your Notes for October, p. 77, is, if I am not very much mistaken, an impression from Faithorne's valuable plate retouched and altered by Vertue, who placed his name as the engraver. An impression from Faithorne's plate of Vandyck's portrait, which is considered to be the first of that engraver's work may be worth about twelve guineas. Sutherland had a very indifferent one for which he gave £20. E. Harding bought in a collection from Archer of Dublin, a beautiful impression for which Mr. Sutherland gave him one guinea in exchange, and then sold the whole collection to Mr. Townley as genuine, for £100. profit, esteeming the Bertie at £25. Mr. Lloyd bought a good print from Woodburn for £20.

Yours respectfully,

"A Dealer."

Mr. Willis.

The Man in the Bell.

Sir,—It appears to me most probable that the John Fitzgerald mentioned in the last Number of your Notes, p. 75, as the run-away apprentice of Edmund Spenser of Mallow in 1769, was the subsequent author of "the Cork Remembrancer," published in 1783, and the hero of Maginn's famous story in *Blackwood's Magazine*, entitled "the Man in the Bell," which in your Current Notes for June last, p. 47, is stated by your correspondent, R. D. R. to have been "quoted by Lord Brougham in one of his speeches in the House of Commons."

W. H.

Mr. Willis. *Cork Barracks.*

Entomology and Catherine Hayes.—There is a little insect which lives in the trees near New York; it is about the size of a grasshopper, and in the summer evenings begins its song of one word, which is repeated all night long, and resembles "*Katy-did*," distinctly articulated. From this song the little creature is called the Katydid.

"Did Catherine Hayes succeed or not?" was the question put by an Irishman to an American on their homeward way from her first concert. "Listen," said the latter—Katy-did—Katy-did—Katy-did. And a song has been produced in consequence by a German musical composer, with this chorus.

Your New York Special Reporter.

Mr. Willis.

Egyptian Hieroglyphics.—T. R. B.'s paper on this subject referred to in G. W.'s *Current Notes* for July and August last, pp. 52 and 59, has been returned; for G. W., although with the writer's permission (by letter 3rd November) to burn it, did not think proper to destroy so valuable a communication. He did not allow it to pass out of his own hands, nor would he have thought of doing so without the Author's permission; although he did suggest (p. 59) that the Essay should be forwarded to the Royal Society of Literature, as a learned body more likely to appreciate the importance of its Archæological and Literary merits, and from which to elicit the critical remarks desired, than if submitted to a body of general readers.

G. W. trusts that this explanation will be satisfactory to his highly esteemed Correspondent and Customer.

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Baron, John, (M.D.) F.R.S. Biography. Cheltenham. 2nd October. Advanced age.

Beazley, Samuel. Architect and Dramatic Writer. Tunbridge, Kent. 12th October. Aged 65.

Borrell, H. P., Esq. Numismatist. Smyrna, 2nd October?

Cliffe, Charles Frederick. Editor of the Gloucestershire Chronicle. Author of Works on Wales. Clifton, Bristol. 7th October. Aged 42.

Gibson, Benjamin. Sculptor and Antiquary. Lucca. 13th August. Aged 40.

Johns, Thomas, (Major, R.M.) Poet and Novelist. Plymouth Hospital. October.

Stephens, George. Poet and Dramatic Writer (MSS. of Erdely). Pratt Terrace, Camden Town. October. Aged 51.

Tindal, W. On the 13th inst. suddenly, at his residence, 9, Catherine Street, Stamford St. Blackfriars, William Tindal, for nearly thirty years known to the Collectors of Books, Prints and Coins, as clerk of the sales to Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, of Wellington Street, Strand; leaving a widow and seven children, six totally unprovided for.

Wyon, William, Esq. (R.A.) Medalist and Chief Engraver of the Royal Mint. Brighton. 29th October. Aged 56.

WILLIS'S CURRENT NOTES
FOR THE MONTH.

No. XII.] "I will make a prief of it in my Note-Book."—SHAKSPERE. [DECEMBER, 1851.

NOTICE TO SUBSCRIBERS
TO THE "PRICE CURRENT OF LITERATURE."

G. WILLIS gratefully acknowledges the various interesting documents and letters he has received. He is anxious that it should be perfectly understood that he is not the author of any statement, representation, or opinion, that may appear in his *Current Notes*, which are merely selections from communications made to him in the course of his business, and which appear to him to merit attention. Every statement, therefore, is open to correction or discussion, and the writers of the several paragraphs should be considered as alone responsible for their assertions. Although many notes have hitherto appeared anonymously, or with initial letters, yet, wherever a serious contradiction is involved, G. Willis trusts that his Correspondents will feel the necessity of allowing him to make use of their names when properly required.

GEORGE III., FRANKLIN, AND DR. JOHNSON.

It is well known that George III. for some of the most important years of his reign, made notes respecting nearly all the persons and occurrences which came under his observation, very frequently by apt quotations from Shakspere.

"In addition," says a publication of 1779, "*to the numerous private registers always kept by the king*, and written with his own hand, he has lately kept another of all those Americans who have either left the country voluntarily rather than submit to the rebels, and also of such as have been driven out by force; with an account of their losses and services."

One of these Note Books recently came under G. W.'s inspection. That it was in the King's autograph there can be no question, and his opinions of Dr. Franklin and Dr. Johnson, in 1778, are very remarkable.

Dr. Benjamin Franklin.

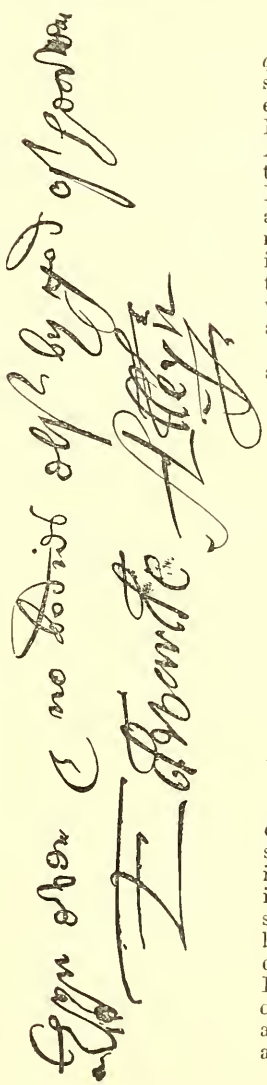
"O let us have him; for his silver hairs
Will purchase us a good opinion,
And buy men's voices to commend our deeds:
It shall be said, his judgment ruled our hands;
Our youths and wildness shall no whit appear,
But all be buried in his gravity."

Julius Cæsar, A. 2.

Dr. Johnson.

"He draweth out the thread of his verbosity
Finer than the staple of his argument.
I abhor such phanatical phantasms,
Such insociable and point-devise companions,
Such rackers of orthography."

Love's Labour's Lost, A. 5.



THYN EVER AND
NO BODIES ELS BY
GOD OF HEAVEN.
EDWARDE ALLEYN.

ALLEYN, (*the Founder of Dulwich College*), whose seal ring may be found engraved in the October Number of your *Current Notes*, p. 77, together with the Corporate Seal of that Monastic Establishment, appears to have been much attached to his wife, if we may judge from the passionate expression with which he concludes a letter to her, and of which here is a facsimile annexed.

The original of this declaration is in the possession of the College. It is a letter of no particular interest beyond the subscription addressed by Alleyn to his first wife, and dated from Chelmsford in Essex, May 1593, while on a strolling excursion as an actor, about six months after his marriage.

THE SONS OF NOAH.

SIR,—O. S. (*See "Current Notes" for November, p.* 85), or his informant, may have seen the Lexicon

of Castellus, where he quotes from Golius, under the word שאם, *shama*, that the Arabic *shuma* signifies "*terra* alba, nigri rubra." But the root שמה, *shamah*, from which Shem is derived, signifies, name, fame, glory, &c. Syriac and Ethiopic *shama*, to name, be famous, celebrated, *heavenly-minded*, &c.; and its equivalent in the Sanscrit is *shama*, final happiness, rest, meditation on God, good, virtuous, &c. I might introduce the Chinese cognate, *shin*, which signifies a god-man, a person far superior to others; literally, a person *extending spiritual* affairs. Therefore, Shem's name is descriptive of his own piety, and of the holy line of descendants which should succeed him; from one of which the Messiah was to come. The text, "blessed be the Lord God of Shem," may be read, Blessed of the Lord God be Shem.

Ham.—Hebrew חם, *cham*, hot, *black*. Arabic, *ham*, hot, black, labour. Ethiopic, *cham*, to labour, be afflicted, humiliated. Coptic, *chem*, to be hot. The Sanscrit *ham* and *hum* are expressions of anger, reproach, aversion, dislike: they may be, but I cannot affirm that they are, cognates of the Semitic dialects. However, they aptly express the feelings of Noah when he pronounced the curse.

Japhet.—From the Hebrew פתה, *phathah*, to enlarge. Chaldee, *phatha*, to enlarge, increase, spread in multitudes. Sanscrit, *pata*, to extend, expand, &c. Latin, *pateo*. Therefore, Japhet denotes the vast extent of the dominions of Japhet.

I cannot find that *colour* is attached to either of the three sons of Noah, except Ham, or Cham, the Father of Slaves. T. K. Brown.

Southwick, near Oundle, Dec. 1st, 1851.

Biblical Quere.—Allow me to ask, in the "*Current Notes*," How ought the following Bible to be lettered at the back? *i. e. whose* Bible is it called?

"La Saincte Bible Latine-Françoise, a Lyon, par Sebastien Thuviati, M.D.L.X.

Mr. Willis. Querist.

Thomas Hood.—Your Correspondent, W. S., who inquires in the last Number of your *Notes* (p. 87) the precise date of poor Thomas Hood's death, may have looked for it in vain in the Gentleman's Magazine, where it is not recorded, but I inclose you the circular letter which was addressed to his friends (myself among the rest) upon that melancholy event,

"May 8th, 1845.

"The funeral of the late Thomas Hood will take place at 12 o'clock on Saturday next, at the Kensal Green Cemetery, where a few of those who appreciate his genius and regret his loss propose meeting to attend his remains to the grave.

"You are invited to join in paying the last tribute of respect to his memory."

From another note, which I have found among my papers and also inclose, although undated and unaddressed, there can be no difficulty in arriving at the precise date required, which must have been the 3rd May, 1845.

"My dear Sir,—Mr. Hood died on Saturday afternoon—he promised to let me have a proof with autograph, this I hope to get next week.

"Yours truly,

"J. C. Renshaw."

Hood's "Song of the Shirt" appeared anonymously in *Punch*, December 16, 1843. It was said, that just before his death he wrote a far more touching ballad, called "the Song of the Pen," in which he alluded to his own circumstances, and which is said to have been printed and privately circulated among his friends, but I have never seen a copy of it. C.

Thomas Hood and Fraser's Magazine.

London, Nov. 27th, 1851.

Mr. George Willis,

Sir,—I cannot sufficiently express the great gratification your little periodical affords me, and I much regret that my time will not permit me to assist it, deserving as it does so much encouragement.

With reference to "W. S.'s" (p. 87) inquiry, respecting poor Hood, the *precise* date I cannot find out in any newspaper; I believe it to be about May 12th, 1845. Did not the "Song of the Shirt" appear in the New Monthly? I *think* it was nearly his last, and the papers of the time were very free with it, as well as the "Bridge of Sighs."

I have long purposed troubling you to inquire whether, in the January number of your *Current Notes*, upon p. 1, "The Fraserians," you have mentioned *all* the heads were not drawn by Maclise?

Can you tell the names of those called "a few of the F. S. A.'s," drawn by Crowquill, which appeared in the same publication?

Also of "Regina's Maids of Honour?" or kindly inform me which number will give me the desired information. With all good wishes,

Yours very obediently,

A. K.

[G. W. *will endeavour to procure the information desired.*]

Katty-did.—*An Entomologist* would thank G. W.'s New York Special Reporter for a specimen, and a copy of the Song, with a correct version of the £3000 affair.

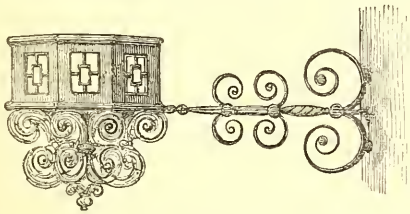
"Let's have another Glass."—Odd as it may seem, the origin of this convivial expression appears to be religious, as it was formerly the custom to regulate the length of a discourse from the pulpit not by its matter or the occasion, but by an hour or half-hour glass, to receive which an adjacent stand was affixed. I have read somewhere the story of a puritanical minister, who used to preach regularly three hours by the glass—turning his half-hour glass six times, and would then see the last grain of sand out before he brought his sermon to a conclusion. The Squire of his parish, who regularly attended church, after the text as regularly withdrew—dined, smoked his pipe, and after emptying his six glasses, as regularly returned for the blessing.

Butler, in his Hudibras, mentions

> "Gifted brethren, preaching by
> A carnal hour-glass."

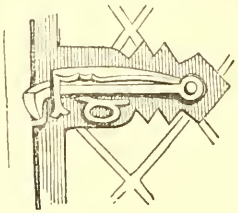
I suppose with reference to this Squire.

Many examples of these stands remain in our churches. For myself I see less objection to them than to the introduction of a clock. I remember the stand of one in St. Michael's Church, St. Alban's, and of another in the Church of Stoke D'Abernon, Surrey, of which I inclose a sketch, (as there is less Parliamentary inquiry going on at present in that neighbourhood.)



When on a recent visit in Dorsetshire I met some clergymen at dinner—and a set of pleasant and well-informed fellows they were—the length of an agreeable sermon became the subject of conversation, and a pulpit half-hour glass was mentioned as not a bad monitor. One of the party then remarked, that the stand remained affixed to the pulpit in his Church (the name of which I forget, if it was mentioned), and that he had been strongly urged by some influential parishioners to have it removed, and not to look towards it so constantly. He added facetiously—"I declined complying with their request to remove the stand, although I did not say to them, 'Let's have another glass.' And," he continued, after a pause in which his right hand grasped a decanter of superlative claret, "You will, I hope, have no objection to my proposal. 'Let's have another glass?'" As a young Oxonian, I did not presume to dissent from so orthodox a suggestion. ☞

Turnbuckle.—G. W. begs to apologise to his Correspondent (whose communication, however, was acknowledged in his October Notes, p. 80), but as he has now received and engraves the desired illustration of an ancient Turnbuckle, or window latch, he trusts that his apology for the delay in doing so will be satisfactory to his New York friends.



"Turnbuckles may still be found in England, as fastenings to the old cottage windows in several counties, or attached to the windows in old mansions, which are called "laticed windows," probably from the Saxon læccan. The first folio edition of Shakspere reads *latch* (Macbeth, iv. 3), and not *catch*, as in several subsequent editions. 'Turnbuckle' is a term used in trade, for a catch or latch."

S. C.

Antiquarian Sacrilege.—In the Sale Catalogue of the library, &c. of John Meyrick, Esq., the father of the well-known antiquary, the late Sir Samuel Meyrick, by Messrs. King and Lochée, in April and May, 1806, (a twelve days sale), the following lots passed under the auctioner's hammer:

236 Monumental Effigy, in brass; from Fulham church.

2375 —— —— and Ancient Inscription on the Decease of Margaret Cheyne. 1578.

[*There can be little doubt that this came from Chelsea Church.*]

2538 Ancient Effigies (4), in brass.

2538* —— —— (10), and Coats of Arms, Inscriptions, &c.

> "Where are your trophies all, ye mighty men,
> Banners, and 'scutcheons, cenotaphs, and arms
> Wrested from foes in battle? Do they lie
> Oft in a corner of some ruin'd pile
> A prey to damps and coated o'er with moss
> That hide your titles, fragile to the touch
> Of curious finger, that perhaps may try
> Once in an age, those antique characters
> And rudely chissel'd cyphers to explore;
> Perhaps in vain! Yes, poor Ephemera,
> This is the end of all your hoped applause,
> To lie forgotten—but be not appall'd,
> The world can give no more; its gifts are sands
> That fly as veers the blast,—be bold as Mars,
> Strong as Alcides, and as Pallas wise,
> Graceful as Pæan, or as Hebe fair,
> With all allurements mind or body give,
> The memory of your fame has its decline,
> And dies at last. Dare to be virtuous then,
> And look above this perishable mass,
> This ever-changing round that hourly feeds
> Upon itself, discharging from its womb

Its future food—despise what earth can give,
And fix upon that crown a steady eye,
That patient suffering and unshaken faith
Receive above the clouds, nor heed when death
Shall number thine amid the names that sleep,
To be forgotten by the busy world
Or in a season, or a thousand years."

MONUMENTAL BRASSES.

Norwich,
1st December, 1851.

DEAR SIR,—With this I send you a paragraph from one of our local papers, of a *Palimpsest* Brass just discovered here, thinking it may be interesting to your correspondent, "F. W." (see p. 86.) With respects.

Yours truly,

MR. WILLIS. I. M.

"An interesting discovery has, this week, been made by the temporary removal of the sepulchral Brass of Sir Peter Rede from its place in the church of St. Peter's Mancroft, during the progress of the restoration. It has been found that this memorial is what archæologists term a Palimpsest Brass, that is, an engraved effigy of more ancient character exists on the reverse, or back, and though the date of the death of Sir Peter Rede is 1568, yet his representation is comparatively a modern usurpation of metal laid down on an older monument. This reverse is unfortunately not perfect, as the engraver of the Brass of Sir Peter Rede thought it necessary to deface the face of the old figure by the marks or gougeing of his tool. The portion of the old effigy now disclosed, shews a fine head reclining on a pillow, and the ornamentation is composed of rich quatrefoils, foliage, &c. The style closely approaches the Lynn Brasses—perhaps, for bold workmanship and beauty of design, the finest examples remaining in the kingdom of heir class."

Rochester, 3rd December, 1851.

Sir,—In reference to the Palimpsest Brasses mentioned in your last "Current Notes," (p. 86), I may state that we have a specimen of one in our Parish Church of St. Margaret's, Rochester. There is an effigy of the Vicar Thomas Codd on either side of the brass in question; the features are the same, but the vestments appear to be different. The late Mr. W. F. Hanson of Rochester was the means of rescuing and restoring this brass, which now hangs in an oaken frame on the east wall of the south aisle of our church. It has been carefully mounted in copper, and is so fitted as to admit of both sides being inspected by opening the hinged frame. The term Palimpsest is perhaps not strictly applicable to such brasses; for the word implies erasure and subsequent inscriptions, whereas, these double brasses are perfect on both sides. The inscription is not removed to make way for another, but one design seems to have been abandoned for another, and the artist's last effort alone left visible.

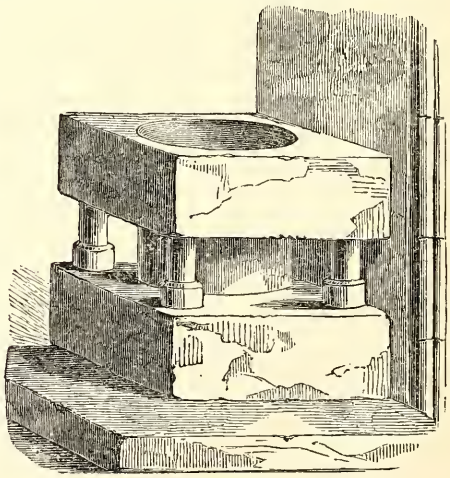
G. E. S.

BAPTISMAL FONTS.—The proper position in a church is as near the entrance as conveniently may be; and the age can be, with some degree of certainty, arrived at by guaging to ascertain how much water it will hold. The fonts of the primitive Christians were springs of water—now termed in Ireland "Holy Wells"—in the vicinity of a church. Then fonts were introduced into the church porch, and now remain at the West end to intimate that baptism was the entrance into the mystical Church. Fonts were originally constructed large and capacious, to allow of immersion, which rite falling into disuse in the Protestant Church, they were made smaller and smaller, until very recently, when more attention has been paid to ecclesiastical ceremonies, and fonts of recent manufacture have been gradually enlarged.

In the early part of the last century it is stated, that—

"Immersion being now too generally discontinued, they have shrunk into little small fonts scarce bigger than mortars, and only employed to hold less basons with water, though this last be expressly contrary to an ancient advertisement of our Church. It is still indeed required that there be a font in every church made of stone, because, saith Durand, the water, that typified baptism in the wilderness, flowed from a rock, and because Christ, who gave forth the living water, is in Scripture called the *Corner Stone* and the *Rock*."

Many examples of the ancient "dipping font" may be found in the churches of Surrey and Kent. One, for example, at Beddington, which is "of a square form, with a circular basin, supported by a central and four smaller columns, standing on a low plinth." Another (of which you have a sketch) is



AT WOKING.

FONS.

Saint Hibbald.

British Museum, Nov. 27th, 1851.

Sir,—In reply to the inquiries of your Correspondent, "K. P. D. E." (p. 87) I beg to inform you that Saint *Hibbald*, or *Hygbald*, was Abbot of an ancient monastery, in the province of Lindsey, in the time of Wulhere, King of the Mercians. According to the author of the English Martyrology, "for his integrity of life and conversation was famous in times past throughout the whole island of Great Britain." Bede calls him a "most holy and continent man," and says he went to Ireland to visit St. Egbert. Their discourse happened to turn on the death of St. Chad, Bishop of Lichfield, when St. Egbert related that he knew a man, then living, who had seen his soul borne to heaven by the hands of angels. Saint Hygbald died about the year of Christ 685, and his feast is commemorated on the 22nd day of September. For further particulars, I refer your Correspondent to Bede's Church History, Book 4, Chapter 3, and to the English Martyrologie, printed 1608, page 257. See also Brittania Sancta. vol. 2, page 139, and the Appendix to Usuard's Martyrologium, by Joannes Molanus.

Yours truly,

Mr. Willis. A Bookworm.

Archæological Publications.—As far as G. W. can ascertain, Part 1, vol. iv. of the *Archæologia Æliana*, 1846, is the last of the publications of the Society of Antiquaries of Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Society of Antiquaries of Scotland has ceased to publish its proceedings for many years, for the same reason that has suspended the *Archæologia Æliana*, *viz.* want of funds. The Archæological Societies of Sussex and Norfolk have each published from three to four volumes, which are issued regularly, and sustained by considerable talent. The publications of the Lancashire and Cheshire Societies are also creditable performances; and the Bury and West Suffolk also progresses, but not *pari passu*. The proceedings of many other local Antiquarian Societies are confined to newspaper reports of their annual meetings. The *Archæologia Cambrensis* is published by Mason of Tenby, and by Pickering of London. It is confined to the Antiquities of Wales. "The Museum of Classical Antiquities" is published by J. W. Parker, West Strand. Its title indicates its object. It is well edited, and contains some papers of the highest interest. The *Collectanea Antiqua* is chiefly devoted to our national antiquities; vol. ii. is in course of publication. The proceedings of the Numismatic Society are embodied in the *Numismatic Chronicle*, edited by Mr. Akerman. It is a work no numismatist can be without.

G. W. has, he believes, answered all the queries of his respected Correspondent, with the exception of those relating to Continental Antiquarian Societies and their publications, which will require further consideration, as they are but little known in this country.

Discovery of Nell Gwynne's Jewel Case.—In your Notes, Mr. Willis, at least three looking glasses said to have belonged to Nell Gwynne, have been mentioned as engraved. Now here is another of the same character, which has come into the writer's possession with Nell Gwynne's so-called jewel case, and in which he found among other old papers, the two following bills, which are evidently copies made at the time, and not the original documents:—

"March 19th, 1674-5, rec^d of Madā Gwin, at ye hands of Thomas Growndes, ye sum~ of five poundes, for the use of a parcell of jewells which I form^rly lent to her, and do hereby acknowledge y^t I have rec^d them all back againe, I say rec^d by me John Marlowe."

"April 24th, 1675.

"Rec^d then of Madā Ellen Gwin, at ye hands of Thomas Growndes, the sum~ of four and thirty pounds, for three pictures, one of the King, and two being copies aft^r Cooper of Madā Gwin . . . li. 34

"I say rec^d Peeter Crosse."

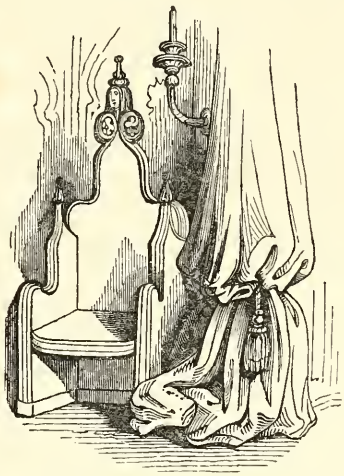
I have no doubt whatever of the genuineness of these documents, and congratulate myself on having become the purchaser of so interesting a cabinet.

I. S.

The Old Oak Chair.

Mr. Willis,—As you appear, or at least as your Correspondents seem to take an extraordinary interest about Old Chairs (see your *Notes* for Jan. p. 8, Feb. p. 14, April, p. 27, July, p. 52, Aug. p. 60, and Nov. p. 85), I send you some verses which were written by my friend and connection, the late Rev. Thomas Streatfeild, well known as the Kentish Antiquary, for a relic which I had replaced in the hall of my paternal mansion, when it came into my possession. If these verses reflect severely on the memory of my two elder brothers, I must say that

the reckless extravagance of one, and the convivial habits and political speculations of the other, had all but destroyed the property which they respectively inherited from our parent. When, on the death of my second brother, I became the owner of the family mansion, I found it a ruin, and the estate so encumbered, as literally not to be worth the sum for which it was mortgaged. But I had an affection for the old place, and having saved some money in India, was able with it to pay off the creditors of the estate, and to restore the house upon it, where Mr. Streatfeild paid me a visit for a few days. He was much pleased at what I had done, and talked freely about the conduct of my father and brothers; and on the morning of his departure I found the following lines lying on the seat.



THE OLD OAK CHAIR.

My good sire sat in his Old Oak Chair,
And the pillow was under his head;
And he rais'd his feeble voice, and ne'er
Will the memory part
From my living heart
Of the last few words he said:—

"When I sit no more in this Old Oak Chair,
And the grass has grown on my grave,
And like armed men, come Want and Care,
Know, my boys, that God's curse,
Will but make matters worse,
How little so ever you have.

"The son that would sit in my Old Oak Chair,
And set foot on his father's spade,
Must be of his father's spirit heir,
And know that God's blessing
Is still the best dressing,
Whatever improvements are made."

And he sat no more in his Old Oak Chair,
And a scape-thrift laid his hand
On his father's plough, and he cursed the air,
And he cursed the soil,
For he lost his toil;
But the fault was not in the land.

And another sat in his father's chair,
And talk'd—o'er his liquor—of laws;
Of the tyranny here, and the knavery there,
Till the old bit of Oak
And the drunkard broke;
But the times were not the cause.

But I have redeem'd the ricketty chair,
And trod in my father's ways;
Have turned the furrow, with humble prayer,
To profit my neighbours,
And prosper my labours,
And bind my sheaves with praise.

THE VALUE OF TRADITION.

SIR,—I, for one, agree with the assertion made in the last number of your "Notes," p. 83, as to the value of tradition, and you will find my opinion six and twenty years ago recorded in the Gentleman's Magazine for December, 1825, p. 524, where I have stated my belief that "Ancient traditions have always some foundation, though they may be so disfigured by vulgar notions, as to appear like pure inventions." The origin of my assertion had reference to a story told in *Britton's Beauties of Wiltshire*, vol. III. where under "Garsdon" we find one origin of ghost stories. "Some valuable communion-plate was placed (probably during the Civil wars) in a box, deposited in a lumber-room of the manor-house, and a tale (evidently circulated to prevent violation) was added 'that a ghost had been laid in the box.' The box remained untouched, till a clergyman of a subsequent æra was informed by an old man who probably had heard it from an ancestor, privy to the deposit, that there was some communion plate at the great house. The box was then opened, and the plate discovered." Yours,

I. B.

IRISH "PROVERBIAL PHILOSOPHY." No. II.

A peasant, accused of murder, was asked in court whether he had any counsel, or any attorney, engaged for him. "Sure, then, I can't have better," was his ready reply. "Who are they?" "I have no counsel but God, and no attorney but your Lordship."

[This story was told me by the late Lord Guillamore, before whose father the man was tried and acquitted. T. C. C.]

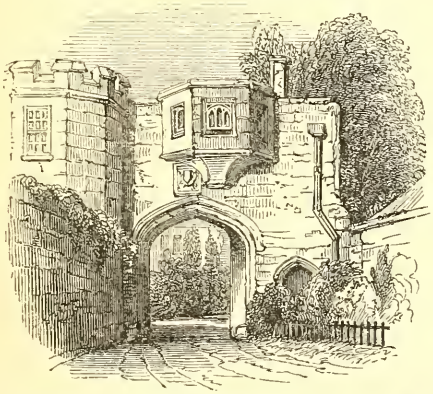
"WHO RUNS MAY READ?"—A paragraph with this heading has been what is called "making the round of the press," respecting the introduction of the daily newspapers into the Islington omnibuses,

which the passengers may peruse for the charge of one penny. I have read this paragraph in the *Salisbury and Winchester Journal* of the 29th November. Ought it not to have been rather entitled, there and elsewhere, "Who *rides* may read?

Q. IN THE CORNER.

ELIZABETH'S RING AND THE EARL OF ESSEX.—Great doubt has always been felt respecting the truth of the ring story and the Countess of Nottingham, of which Hume has made such pathetic use in his account of the last days of Elizabeth. That rings have been at all periods, and in all countries, methods of secret communication, there is no reason to doubt, but the whole of the death-bed scene of Lady Nottingham, and Elizabeth's visit to her, appears to me highly improbable. The Countess is recorded in the parish register of Chelsea to have died at Arundel House, London, on the 25th February, 1602-3, and the Queen on the 24th of the following month at Richmond. Lady Chatterton, in her "Home Scenes and Foreign Recollections," would localize the occurrence to a chamber in

THE GATEWAY TO THE WARDROBE COURT OF RICHMOND PALACE,



which still remains upon Richmond Green. Messrs. Brayley and Britton call this somewhat ungallantly "an absurd story"—but looking at the dates and other circumstances, is it not more probable that the confession was made here to the Queen (if made at all) than in Arundel House? However, I am somewhat sceptical about the story of the ring altogether.

T. K.

CHARLES JAMES FOX.—W. H. thanked for the Anecdote, which G. W. is informed has been printed, and that a similar anecdote is told of Oliver Cromwell, to the authority for which he thinks his kind correspondent R. J. S. can give him a clue. Under these circumstances, G. W. does not at present use W. H's communication.

THE HOLY COURT.—Although I have ascertained that Dr. Neligan's copy of this book was sold by Messrs. Sotheby and Wilkinson, for two shillings (see that gentleman's letter in your *Notes* for last month, p. 86), I am inclined to think that a copy with the *Corke* title page, about which I inquired on the 1st October last (p. 79), is not to be so easily procured.

Yours,

A SUBSCRIBER.

CAUSSIN'S HOLY COURT.—I think there must be some mistake on the part of your Subscriber, as well as on that of the Rev. Dr. Neligan, of Cork, respecting the edition of this work inquired after.

Is it likely that in 1767 a folio volume of 869 pages could have been printed in an Irish provincial city? R. O. W.

MR. G. WILLIS.

INKLE WEAVERS.

Sir,—May I give you still another version of the phrase "as thick as inkle weavers." It is this:—the introduction of this kind of tape was from the Low Countries, during the persecutions of the 16th century: and the trade was carried on by a few foreigners who kept the secret among themselves, and being of one trade, language, and religion, they of course became intimates and friends; they were as Burns describes his "twa dogs,"

"Unco pack and *thick* together."

Halliwell in his Dictionary describes Inkle as "inferior tape. See Florio, p. 124; Harrison, p. 222." Its use may be gathered from the accounts of the Corporation of Norwich (published by the Norfolk and Norwich Archæological Society) bearing date 1587-8, where is put down the expenses for soldier's coats, "and for whight yncle to laye upon the same coats." We may probably trace it in worsted lace trimming still bestowed on the coats of our foot soldiers.

I am, sir, yours truly,

H. W.

Tower Hill.

THE DEVONSHIRE COLLECTION.

Piccadilly. 28th November.

Sir,—I often see references in Numismatic Works to the Coins in the Collection of the Duke of Devonshire, or the "Devonshire Collection," as it is called. Will you kindly inform me where it is kept, and how I am to obtain permission to consult it?

I am, Sir, your Subscriber,

A YOUNG NUMISMATIST.

MR. WILLIS.

Ploughing by Steam.

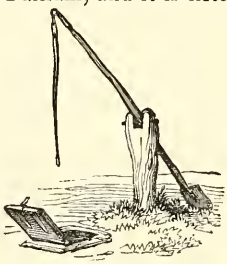
Dear Sir,—In your "Current Notes" (just received) for November, (p. 85) "Ploughing by Steam" suggested a difficulty which I have some curiosity to know how Lord Willoughby de Eresby would surmount. There are occasionally large stones met with in all land if the plough share goes a little deeper than it has previously done, or if the alluvial soil should in any place have been washed away leaving less depth of it. Are all the "Coulters" or plough shares to be instantly stopped in such case, or can the one which comes in contact with the stone be stopped before it is broken or goes through the stone?

The Son of a Practical Farmer.

Mr. Willis.

P.S. The invention would furnish some amusement on his Lordship's rocky estate in the Welsh Vale of Llanrwst, where it would have some such task to perform as removing rocks.

The Shadoof.—The gardens and fields of Egypt were watered by the pole and bucket mode of raising it from the well, as used at Fulham, and it is lifted on high lands from the river on to a series of terraces by such a series of machines. It is termed the Shadoof in Egypt, and is still used there; an engraving of it may be seen in vol. 2. of series 1 of Wilkinson's Ancient Egypt; and he says that it is not a little remarkable that an Arab tradition still records the use of the *shadoof* in the time of the Pharaohs. He also gives two representations of ancient shadoofs of that remote period from paintings on the walls at Thebes. W. G.



The Badge of Baronetcy (an extended hand) termed in England the "red hand of Ulster," is the most common of all the symbols of the aboriginal tribes of America. It is found on the ancient temples, and within the tombs of Yucatan. At the earliest period it was used by the Indians in the United States, and at the present time it is employed by the roving bands and large tribes from the Mississippi to the Rocky Mountains, and from Texas northward. W. A.

Garrick upon Church Preferment.

29 Nov. 851.

Dear Sir,—If you think it worth while to rescue from oblivion the following anecdote of the late Mr. Garrick, by inserting it in your "Current Notes," it is much at your service. I have more than once heard it related by my father, who was nearest of kin to the other party named, and was present on the occasion referred to.

I am yours faithfully,
W. P.

Mr. Willis.

Mr. Garrick was on terms of intimacy with Mr. Beighton, a clergyman residing at Wirksworth in Derbyshire, to whom he paid an annual visit. On one of these occasions Mr. Beighton, who had received promises of preferment from several men of rank with whom he was acquainted, expressed to Garrick, as they sat at dinner, his disappointment at the long delay of his expectations. On which Garrick observed, "Well, Beighton, as your great friends will do nothing for you, we must see what we show folk can do." The subject then dropped, and Mr. Beighton thought no more about it, till some months afterwards he received a letter from Garrick, enclosing one from Lord Orford, offering him the presentation to a living, which being within an easy distance of London, was the more acceptable to a man of literary habits like Mr. Beighton. There he spent the remainder of his life, and dying before Garrick, he bequeathed to him, as the remembrance which he knew the great actor would most highly esteem, his valuable and extensive library, which he had taken great pains in collecting.

The late Sir Robert Peel.—G. Willis respectfully and gratefully acknowledges the receipt of the letter written by this distinguished statesman (suggesting the publication of a work) which G. W. has made arrangements to undertake in his *Current Notes* for January, when Sir Robert Peel's introductory letter will appear.

Thanks.—G. Willis has the honour to acknowledge the receipt of Five Pounds from the Right Hon. Lord Londesborough, to be applied for the benefit of the widow and family of the late Mr. W. Tindal, whose death was recorded in the Obituary, (appended to *Willis's Current Notes* for November p. 88.)

Literary and Scientific Obituary.

Caunter, Rev. John Hobart, B.D., Curate of Prittlewell, late Rector of Hailsham. Poetry, Biblical Literature, &c. 14th November.

Dunbar, George, A.M., F.R.S.E. Prof. of Greek in the University of Edinburgh. Lexicography and Classical Criticism. Dec. 6th. Aged 77.

Montagu, Basil, Esq. Q.C. Legal and Philosophical Writer. Boulogne. 27th November. Aged 82.